

Princess's driver was drunk

'Catch me if you can' taunt to paparazzi

By CHARLES BREMNER AND ANDREW PIERCE

THE chauffeur of the car in which Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed had been driving at 120mph while drunk, French investigators discovered yesterday.

Henri Paul, deputy head of security at the Paris Ritz, had drunk more than three times France's legal alcohol limit for drivers — or the equivalent of one and a half bottles of wine — when he drove the Princess and her companion Dodi Fayed from the hotel on Saturday night.

Unconfirmed reports said that he had taunted paparazzi scrambling for pictures of the couple, saying "catch me if you can", before speeding away.

The high-powered Mercedes S280 did manage to pull away from the photographers on motorcycles as it left the Place de la Concorde, but as it roared into a tunnel alongside the River, the limousine came up behind a car travelling near the 30mph limit. The overtaking manoeuvre sent it out of control and into a concrete pillar, leaving the speedometer stuck at 120.

The police disclosure that M Paul, who also died in the crash, was drunk took some of the force out of the investigation into the role of the paparazzi in the tragedy. But seven photographers were still being questioned yesterday and four were expected to be charged under the French "good samaritan" law with failing to give assistance to someone in danger and with leaving the scene of an accident.

Witnesses reported that photographers had spent up to ten minutes taking pictures of the car and its occupants before the emergency services were called and that some were still swarming around the wreckage when the police arrived.

An American family who passed in a taxi said that they had been shocked to see photographers taking close-up pictures of the Princess as she lay unconscious. "Poor woman: her head was turned

to the side," Robin Firestone said, adding that she had not realised who she was until later. Another witness said that five photographers had jostled to get past police to get nearer to the Princess.

More than 20 rolls of film were confiscated from the seven detained at the scene and these were being examined by police in a search for clues to the cause of the crash. Other photographers are said to have evaded police and their pictures are being touted for sale around the world.

The prosecutor's office said: "The investigation has allowed us to determine in a more precise manner the behaviour of certain people who did not give the aid and assistance normally required in case of an accident on a public road. The testimony of the surviving passenger will be very important, but it has not so far been possible because of his state of health."

Trevor Rees-Jones, a British bodyguard employed by Mohamed Al Fayed, was the sole survivor of the crash. He suffered serious injuries but although those were said not to be life-threatening, his condition has not improved enough for him to be interviewed.

In the meantime Mr Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods and the Paris Ritz, is said to be determined to press ahead with legal action against the photographers he believes to have been responsible for killing his son and the Princess. He is planning private prosecutions in spite of the disclosure that M Paul — one of the most senior employees at his hotel — had been drunk and is said to have instructed his lawyers to explore every legal avenue open to them.

Anger against the paparazzi and the media remained intense throughout France yesterday with ministers calling for a further tightening of privacy laws. The public mood was reflected in the graffiti inscription "Paparazzi murder-



Books of condolence are signed at St James's Palace yesterday. Roads round the palace were closed until Sunday as thousands queued for hours to pay homage

ers" daubed under the L'Alma Bridge by the tunnel entrance. Mr Al Fayed's Paris lawyer Bernard Darteville said: "Whatever the fault of the driver, we have a chain of events the origin of which was an offence committed by the photographers."

"Mr Al Fayed will use all legal means to bring to justice those responsible for her death. The opening of a manslaughter case seems the very least that should be done at this stage. If the photographers hadn't surrounded Lady Diana's vehicle and organised the chase, the driver would not have gone so fast."

Michael Cole, the public affairs director of Harrods, said that while he condemned drink-driving, the photographers had behaved like red Indians surrounding a stage-

coach. About thirty had gathered outside one of the entrances to the Ritz while the Princess and Mr Fayed were having dinner, forcing the couple to leave by a rear exit where they were met by M Paul — the standby driver — while Mr Fayed's regular chauffeur acted as a decoy luring some of the photographers away.

In spite of the ruse, a high-powered motorcycle had deliberately obstructed the Princess's Mercedes as it pulled away. Mr Cole said: "One of the motorbikes, a very powerful machine, was overtaking the car and pulling rightwards in front of it to try to slow it down so that the other photographers could keep up. The photographers were flashing off blitz lights into the eyes of the people

inside the car. It was like a stage coach surrounded by Indians, but instead of firing arrows, they were firing these lights into the eyes of the driver who was just trying to get his charges away from them. One eyewitness said it was not an accident: it was murder."

Of M Paul, a 41-year-old former naval officer who had worked at the Ritz for 11 years, Mr Cole said: "He is a conscientious employee." While he was deputy head of security at the hotel, he had driving duties from time to time and had, Mr Cole added, taken two courses on professional security guard driving — including anti-terrorist and anti-hijacking techniques in both conventional and bullet-proof limousines — run by

Mercedes Benz in Stuttgart. M Paul's body was found to contain 1.75 grammes of alcohol per litre of blood and his drunken condition was apparent to members of staff at the Ritz who alerted the photographers' lawyers hours before the police released the blood test results yesterday.

The French legal limit for drivers is 0.5 grammes and French police manuals describe anything over 1.5 as a state of incapacity that multiplies the chance of an accident by 80 times.

An RAC spokesman said of M Paul's alcohol level: "This meant that he would have been over twice the UK limit and would have meant he would have drunk the equivalent of at least a bottle of wine. In this situation, the driver would have had no chance of

controlling a big car at high speed in a confined space. "Having drunk as much as he had, he would have felt immortal."

The RAC said that research showed that there were more incidents of drink-driving related accidents in France than in Britain. "Our policy has always been to say that people should not drink anything when they drive," a spokesman said.

"Our research shows that people over the limit do not fear danger in the same way that those driving soberly do. Over-the-limit drivers have their tension levels reduced and also their reaction times are greatly reduced as is their judgement. All these factors combine to produce a situation where an accident is just waiting to happen."

Peter Luff, Conservative MP for Mid-Worcestershire, said: "The question that needs to be asked is how the mother of a future king was allowed to be driven by someone over the limit. It is all very well to protect people from the IRA, but we should be able to protect them also from being driven by drunkards, a much more mundane but, as it turned out, fatal threat."

Lawrie Quinn, the MP for Scarborough and Whitby, said the question now needed to be asked why the Princess did not have a proper police driver for the vehicle. This is one of those questions which we will not get an answer to," He said that the disclosure about the driver demonstrated that people should not simply offer knee-jerk reactions to events.

Princes to be beneficiaries

Princes William and Harry will be the main beneficiaries of the Princess's will, which was drawn up at the time of her £17 million divorce.

The divorce settlement was complex, with a proportion of the fortune being held in various trusts. The Princess had no property since she lived in a grace and favour apartment at Kensington Palace. The executors are likely to include her solicitor, Anthony Julius, an accountant and probably a member of the family. They are likely to apply for the grant of probate within six months. Page 6

Palace promises unique funeral

By ALAN HAMILTON AND PHILIP WEBSTER

A "PEOPLE'S funeral" for Diana, Princess of Wales, in Westminster Abbey on Saturday will be a unique funeral for a unique person, Buckingham Palace said yesterday.

Two thousand invited mourners will fill the abbey. Many thousands more are expected to watch the Princess's coffin borne on a gun carriage from the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace, where it has lain privately since yesterday morning. The coffin will be accompanied by detachments from the Army, Royal Navy and RAF. The Princess will later be buried privately alongside her father at the Spencer family chapel at Althorp, Northamptonshire.

Although the Palace and Downing Street deny it, the formal farewell for the Princess will be virtually a state funeral. Keeping it one step removed from the full pomp, however, allows much more flexibility in who can be invited. The hand of Tony Blair, who favours a public event to honour the Princess, is very much behind the arrangements, made in consultation with the Palace and the family.

Officials and family members were last night finalising an invitation list to what will be London's most important funeral since 300,000 people lined the streets to watch Sir Winston Churchill's last journey in 1965.

Mourners will be headed by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales, Princes William and Harry and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. The Princess's family will be represented by her brother Charles,

the current Earl Spencer, and her sisters Lady Jane Fellowes and Lady Sarah McCorquodale.

Presidents Clinton, Chirac and Mandela are expected to head a relatively small delegation of foreign Heads of State. Representatives of Australia, Canada and other Commonwealth countries will be included. A firm announcement is expected from Mr Clinton's office today.

Palace sources said last night that, as the event was not a fully-fledged state funeral it would not be necessary to fill the abbey with ambassadors and other representatives of the great and the good. "The great majority of mourners will be people who had some personal connection with the Princess, either as friends or as representatives of her many charities and interests."

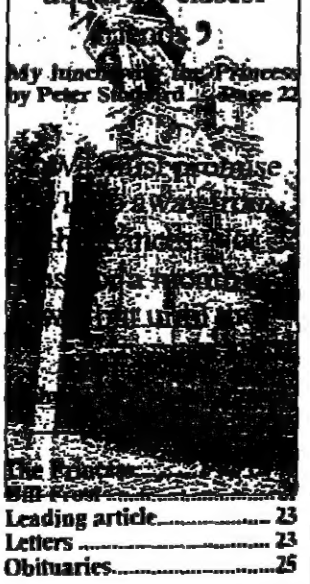
The Government will be represented by Mr Blair, and the other main party leaders are expected to be included. Other guests will include representatives of the Duchy of Cornwall and the Princess's own household, which was reduced to a mere handful of employees after her divorce and the move of her office to Kensington Palace.

One source said last night: "We are determined that the emphasis will be on personal connections, and the people she got on with. That is why, for example, we have decided that workers from her various charities should take part in the procession."

The interment at Althorp will be a much more private affair. It was undecided last night which members of the Royal Family should be there

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My husband and Princess by Peter Saville, page 22

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in addition to the Prince of Wales and the Princess's two children.

Officials have been caught without any pre-planned method of paying for the funeral. Sources said that money would be found from contingency funds and that there would be talks between Buckingham Palace and Downing Street later as to which sources of public finance should share the bill.

Silent Saturday for mourning

By MARK HENDERSON AND JOHN GOODBODY

BRITAIN will come to a halt on Saturday as the nation mourns Diana, Princess of Wales. The National Lottery draw has been postponed, cinemas and theatres have cancelled shows, sports events have been moved, banks will close and shops will open late as a mark of respect.

Airports, railway stations and shopping centres will observe two minutes' silence at 11am as the Princess's funeral begins at Westminster Abbey. Those shops that open in the morning will also observe the silence, as will radio stations not covering the funeral.

Peter Davis, director-general of the National Lottery, said that Saturday's draw would take place on Sunday. Tomorrow's draw will go ahead, but it will not be televised. "It would be inappropriate to hold the Saturday draw on the day of her funeral," he said.

Mohamed Al Fayed, whose son Dodi died with the Princess in Sunday's crash, announced that Harrods would close on Saturday for the second time on a Saturday this century. The previous occasion was to mark the funeral of Winston Churchill. Selfridges will open only in the afternoon.

The supermarkets Safeway, Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury and Co-op will all stay closed until 2 pm, although many will open late on Friday and Saturday nights. Most high street banks will be closed as will branches of Nationwide, the largest building society.

Most sports events scheduled for Saturday have been cancelled or moved, although the Bruemar Gathering of

highland sports, held ten miles from Balmoral, is to go ahead with the approval of the Royal Family.

Fifa, the world football governing body, gave the Scottish Football Association permission to reschedule Scotland's World Cup qualifier against Belarus, although no decision on the game had been taken last night. England's qualifying match against Moldova next Wednesday will go ahead.

No Premiership football matches were planned in England or Scotland because of the World Cup matches, but the Nationwide Football League announced that the full programme of matches scheduled for Saturday would be moved. The games will now take place on Friday night, Sunday or next week.

Cricketer's Natwest Trophy final, between Warwickshire and Essex, will take place on Sunday.

All league and European Cup fixtures in Rugby Union have been postponed, many to Sunday when a two-minute silence will be observed. All Rugby League games have also been called off. The whole day's horse racing programme has been cancelled.

The Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford-upon-Avon and the Royal National Theatre and Globe Theatre in London have cancelled matinees on Saturday, though evening shows will go ahead.

The Society of West End Theatre said many other theatres would take similar decisions, and that all performances would be preceded by a minute's silence. The Royal

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PRINCESS: THE FUNERAL PLANS

Palace and Whitehall plan royal funeral

A COMMAND centre has been set up for the first time at Buckingham Palace to organise the arrangements for the royal funeral on Saturday.

A team of about 15 people yesterday moved into a spacious room overlooking the Palace gardens to co-ordinate the event, which will be watched by millions throughout the world. A bank of more than 20 telephone lines were activated and computers installed to handle the complex arrangements.

The contingency plan has been in place for about ten years when the Lord Cham-

berlain's office moved into the Palace from St James's Palace. But the Princess's funeral is the first time the open-plan room has been used as a nerve-centre to co-ordinate such a massive and unique occasion. Most of the year the Lord Chamberlain's office organises royal garden parties, investitures and state visits.

Under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm Ross, an old Etonian and former officer in the Scots Guards,

who is the Comptroller of the Lord Chamberlain's office, staff yesterday began drawing up the masterplan for the solemn procession from St James's to Westminster Abbey, and then the drive from London to Althorp, where the Princess will be buried next to her father, Earl Spencer.

Li-Col Ross, 53, reports directly to the Earl of Airrie, the Lord Chamberlain, and he is charged with the overall co-ordination of the occasion, taking into account the wishes

of the Spencer family, the Royal Family and advice from the Government's protocol department.

His team will liaise with the police on security and crowd-control issues and will speak to Westminster Abbey staff about the order of service and arrangements for printing.

The military input in the procession and service will also be choreographed from the office. But the main task facing the team last night was contacting by telephone the

guests to be invited to attend the service, and devising a seating plan.

At the Foreign Office yesterday six diplomats from the protocol department were assigned to a "royal funeral" unit to liaise with embassies and high commissions. In a large L-shaped room overlooking the main FO courtyard the team began plotting the likely travel arrangements and routes of each dignitary. The last such gathering of VIPs was two years ago when

nearly 60 heads of state came to London to attend the VE-Day commemoration events.

Such an influx into the country is a diplomatic minefield. Each has to be welcomed by an official "meet and greet" — a team of about 11 former diplomats are on standby for such airport duties. Two are on holiday this week and more might have to be recruited.

The Foreign Office will also liaise with police and security services about personal pro-

tection. Most dignitaries are usually assigned two motorcycle outriders, although some will also have an armed protection officer. The blood group for every dignitary is logged, although some insist on having their own personal ambulance in attendance.

Routes of each dignitary from their embassy or hotel to Westminster Abbey will have to be planned and timed. About 100 police motorcyclists are expected to be drafted into the capital from provincial

forces. Also to be decided will be the order of precedence of those attending.

For the VE-Day commemorations the Foreign Office conceived a new principle — the procession was decided by duration in office. Sources there indicated last night that they thought the model had been successful.

Yesterday, even before the invitations were known, many overseas Governments telephoned the Foreign Office for advice on such matters as where to send a wreath and to whom they should write a letter of condolence.



Thousands of floral tributes were placed at the gates of Kensington Palace, the Princess's home in London, yesterday. Many Londoners had stopped off at the royal residence on their way to work

BY DAVID CHURCHILL
AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

RAIL companies plan to lay on extra services to meet the demand from thousands of people wanting to attend Saturday's funeral.

London's hotels, already heavily booked, are also preparing for a surge of reservations for Friday night. Many are likely to charge the full rate rather than the normal weekend reductions.

Martin Couchman, deputy chief executive of the British Hospitality Association, said: "London is extremely busy at this time of the year and many of the

Extra trains for travellers to funeral

capital's hotels are already full. Claridge's said last night it expected to be fully booked well before the weekend with guests attending the funeral. Already its two new penthouse suites, at £2,300 plus VAT a night, are booked, and a number of its 136 rooms and 56 suites are being reserved for diplomatic guests. The hotel has banned music on its premises on Saturday.

If a room can be booked, getting there is likely to be easier

than normal. Engineering work on main lines into London is to be postponed from Friday night.

Richard Branson's Virgin rail group is arranging two special trains from Carlisle and Manchester in response to requests that flooded in within moments of the funeral details being announced. Other rail operators were last night making hurried arrangements to cope with the expected demand which is likely to leave many Saturday

services as busy as the weekday rush-hour. Train operators around the South East are increasing the number of carriages on trains to cope with the demand.

Extra London Underground services are also being laid on to Westminster.

Hotel industry sources yesterday said that many hotels were likely to charge full rate. "The signs are that hoteliers are waking up to the fact that there is

extra demand and are resisting attempts to give the usual weekend discounts," Julian McConnell, director of the hotel reservations agency Hotelpace, said.

Hotels are able to insist on the published rack rate being paid because of restrictions limiting any discount offers to availability. But hotels have to give several days advance notice of any increase in published tariffs, so the opportunity to officially raise

rates before the weekend is limited.

Utell, the hotel reservations agency which is the UK's largest booker of hotel rooms, said that about half of the 210 hotels it represented in the capital were already fully booked for the weekend with tourists and other groups. "We would expect the rest to fill up over the next few days," it added.

The London Tourist Board said it had received "a lot of

interest" once the details of the funeral had been announced, although in a breakdown in its hotel reservations computer hotline (0171-932 2020) meant that many people could not get through. "London has already seen record levels of occupancy this summer, so we expect the amount of accommodation to be available to be fairly small," a spokesman said.

Utell reservations: (0990 300 200). Other hotel reservation operators in London include Highlife Mini Holidays (0800 700 400), Superbreak (0161 238 5257) and First Option (0161 475 2000).

Police ready for a million mourners

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND Yard is preparing for more than a million mourners on the streets of London for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, on Saturday.

Yesterday senior officers said they had begun preparations for an enormous public turnout. The Yard's special operations centre, codenamed GT, has been opened as police prepare for the largest public funeral in London since the burial of Lord Mountbatten in 1979.

The control room, with its giant television screens linked to cameras mounted on police helicopters, is opened only for top-level public events. On Saturday it will co-ordinate thousands of officers controlling the huge crowds and the teams of specialist armed police providing security cover for the Royal Family.

Last night, police planners were working late at the Yard and waiting for news from Buckingham Palace of who would be on the guest list among the VIPs. All leave has been cancelled for the 400 strong Special Branch department at the Yard. They could be responsible for the close protection of mourners including President Clinton from the United States and President Chirac from France.

Yesterday, senior officers from the royalty and diplomatic protection group, the special escort group which provides armed mobile cover and outriders for dignitaries, and Special Branch started making plans for the operation. VIPs will have to be brought into London from Heathrow, protected if they stay and then guided safely out of Britain again.

Mourning will shut Harrods, the store a bomb could not close

With flowers and candles at the

doors, store makes plans to honour

Princess: Andrew Pierce reports

HARRODS will mark the funeral of the Princess by closing its doors to the public for only the second Saturday since 1965 for the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill.

The flag will be flying at half mast and the Knightsbridge store, which opened even on the first trading day after its 1993 IRA bombing, will be in darkness throughout the weekend. The 11,000 bulbs which usually light the store at night have been extinguished until after the funeral.

Harrods was the focus of a massive outpouring of public grief yesterday. Flowers and candles lay eight feet deep at the main door by lunchtime. A guard stood relighting candles as they flickered out in the wind. Crowds queued to sign four books of remembrance, and many of the staff wore black yesterday. Messages, some in Arabic, were attached

to bunches of flowers. One said: "Dodi, we didn't know you well but already we had taken you to our hearts because of the love and happiness you had given to our Diana, a love she had been denied for so long."

Mohamed Ali Fayed, who surprised many observers by allowing the store to open as usual yesterday, took the decision to shut on Saturday after consultations with his family, including his brother, Ali, the deputy chairman. He said of the deaths of his son and the Princess: "God took their souls to live together in Paradise. Now they have peace. I will never be able to reconcile myself to the needless and cruel deaths of two people who were so vibrant, generous and full of life."

The death of Dodi Fayed has brought the three Ali Fayed brothers under the same roof for the first time in 10 years. Mohamed, Ali and Salah, who lives in Gstaad and runs the family's Egyptian interests, were grieving together at the Harrods owner's mansion in Oxford, Surrey.

Dodi, 41, a film producer, was buried on Sunday evening, in compliance with Muslim tradition, within 24 hours of his death.

There was a quiet family ceremony at the Brooklands Cemetery in Woking, after prayers at the Regent's Park mosque.

Nation to halt in mourning

Continued from page 1

at Academy of Arts is waiving admission charges for the day, and is encouraging visitors to give the money they would have paid to the Princess's favourite charities, the Red Cross and the London Light-house. The National Trust will not open its buildings until 3 pm, and evening events will be preceded by a minute's silence.

The Grosvenor Casino, near Kensington Palace, will not open, and many cinemas will not show films in the morning. The Virgin group, owned by Richard Branson, who attended many charity events with the Princess, said different parts of the group would mark the funeral in different ways. Virgin cinemas will not open until 3 pm.

The Virgin Direct financial services arm will not operate, and Virgin trains and airlines will observe two minutes' si-

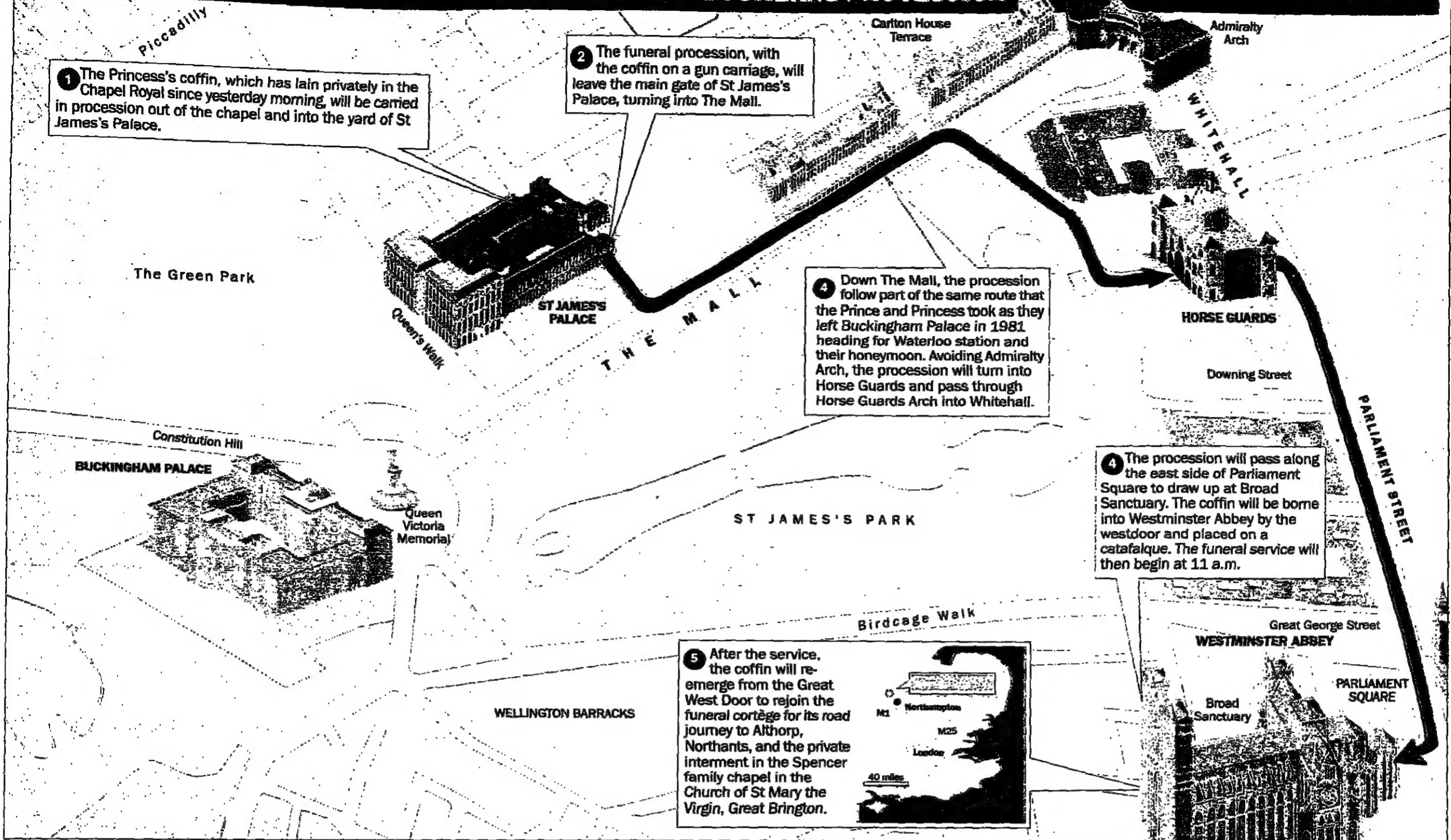
lence at 11 am, both on board aircraft and trains and in check-in and waiting areas. Virgin is encouraging the WH Smith group, which owns the Virgin Megastores, to close them on Saturday morning.

BAA, which operates Britain's main airports, said staff at terminals will observe two minutes' silence, as will Railtrack staff at mainline railway stations. The Venice Simplon Orient Express has cancelled its Saturday service, and Saturday's Air Day Wales at Cardiff international airport has been called off. The Red Arrows, which had been booked to perform there, may fly past at Heathrow.

The Princess Royal has decided not to attend the International Olympic Committee session in Lausanne to be held on Friday, on the eve of the funeral. The session will choose the venue for the 2004 Olympics.

PRINCESS: THE FUNERAL PLANS

THE ROUTE FOR THE FUNERAL PROCESSION



Thousands testify to their sorrow

Alan Hamilton and Adrian Lee meet some who signed the books of condolence

CHILDREN, in their innocence, say it all. "Mummy," a young girl pleaded, tugging impatiently at her mother's arm, "I want to see Diana."

The queue to sign the books of condolence at St James's Palace yesterday was numbered in thousands throughout the day, stretching from the Friary Court entrance halfway down The Mall towards Admiralty Arch, a distance of several hundred yards. Young and old, British and foreign, stood patiently in line for up to three hours to say their private and personal farewells.

Many had met her. All had been touched by her in some way, however distant. Hundreds bore bouquets of flowers to add to the mourning pile by the palace railings, with white lilies the predominant bloom. Most did not mind the wait, and were prepared to spend the entire day if necessary shuffling forward in a quiet, subdued line.

Police admitted the mourners five at a time into the Long Corridor of the palace, where five books of black-edged pages, contained in black ring binders, were laid out on five tables draped in navy blue cloth beneath portraits of long-past military grandees. A fast-track queue-jumping route was established for ambassadors and VIPs, and was used yesterday afternoon by William Hague, the Tory party leader. Palace officials insisted, however, that all books were equal.

"I had to come," said Anne Kersey, the first in the queue. "I remember my father taking me, as a little girl, when the Queen's father died and was lying in state. It was the same sort of heavy feeling."

Mrs Kersey, originally from Cardiff, who arrived at the palace at 7.30am, more than two hours before the doors opened, said: "The scene inside was so beautiful, I thought I was going to faint." Overcome, she was led away in tears.

The messages left in the books were sad, sincere and often philosophical. An early mourner from Portland, Oregon, wrote: "William and Harry, your mother did not know how important she was to the entire world. She had courage and beauty. Do not follow other people; take your mother's path in life, and use her as an example."

Most were simpler, plain and heartfelt expressions of private feeling. Margaret Wilson, who was second in the queue, wrote: "A sad loss to the nation of a Princess

who meant so much to young and old. Your memory will live forever."

Mrs Willson, 52, of Sway, Hampshire, had travelled overnight from Ostend with her daughter, Sally, 25. "We were at a concert but as soon as we heard we just wanted to come and lay flowers," said Mrs Willson. "She was the people's Princess."

There were a few tears over the tables and in the queue outside, as people struggled to come to terms with an item of news that still seemed almost beyond belief. Many of those waiting were engrossed in memorial editions of the day's newspapers, as though seeking confirmation that the tragedy was true.

Reginald Haley, 66, originally from Guyana and now

living in Hackney, east London, had donned his best dark suit and was prepared to wait all day.

"I am happy to dedicate my time to her," he said. "She has more friends in the world than anyone else. I met her once when she visited a hospice in Hackney, and I shook her hand. She lived within the people; she was a caring and loving mother. I would like to think that someone could take her place, but I don't know who."

Paul Broome, 23, and Lynda Stubbs, 21, student nurses from Colchester, Essex, had taken the day off and travelled to London to pay their last respects. Mr Broome carried a large bouquet of red and yellow flowers bought at Tesco on the way to

the station. Miss Stubbs said: "She had a lot of time for a lot of different people. I'm glad she had a little bit of happiness at the end; it's such a shame it was so short-lived."

Vanessa Ha, 24, from Hong Kong, who is studying in London, clutched her own modest bunch of flowers to add to the ever-growing pile. She was at the end of the queue but did not mind that she might have to wait all afternoon. "Diana was a very caring person who tried to help those in need. I must do this for her," she said.

The Princess's body lies in the Chapel Royal, in another part of St James's Palace, where only her closest family and friends may visit. The atmosphere is redolent of monarchical history. In this

chapel Charles I received Holy Communion before crossing the park to his execution at Whitehall in 1649. Here Victoria married Albert in 1840, as did the future George V and Queen Mary in 1893.

In its silent repose by the chapel altar, the body of the Princess lies beneath a richly adorned Holbein ceiling, where a painting commemorates the short-lived marriage of Henry VIII to Anne of Cleves.

The books of condolence at the palace are open 24 hours a day until Friday night. By early yesterday evening the queuing time to sign had grown to five hours.

Everyone in the streets of central London, it seemed, was carrying flowers for the

Princess: businessmen with briefcases, children clutching posies, pensioners had delayed trips home and holiday-makers who had returned from abroad.

At Kensington Palace, where the queues stretched half a mile, the mourners came at a rate of 6,000 an hour. Outside Harrods, people waited for 45 minutes to lay their bouquets. At Buckingham Palace, thousands at a time stood at the gates.

At each location the mounds of flowers grew steadily throughout the day. At Buckingham Palace, the bunches were ten deep and stretched 100ft by lunchtime and, biggest of all, at Kensington Palace the tributes covered a quarter of a mile.

Many visitors were determined to tour every site, laying flowers at each. With their grief was the realisation that they were part of history.

Outside Buckingham Palace, Kathy Higgs, of Leytonstone, east London, who was celebrating her 50th birthday with relatives the day that the Princess died, said: "We will go to Kensington Palace later to take some photographs and maybe on to St James's. I felt I could not let the day pass without coming."

Raine Spencer, the Countess of Chamberlain, the Princess's stepmother, was among the visitors. Yesterday afternoon she was shown the banks of flowers and talked to visitors outside.

At Kensington Palace an oil

painting of flowers was nailed to a tree. Candles were lit beneath the Welsh flag and, on a noticeboard, thousands of people signed their names on pieces of white card. Flowers were crammed on to park benches, pushed through railings on to the palace lawns and hung from the branches of trees.

Sonia Williamson, 30, from Greenwich, southeast London, who was with her daughters, Amy, 5, and Emma, 8, said: "The girls wanted to put flowers outside Diana's house."

At the Young England Kindergarten, where the Princess was working when she met her former husband, a single teddy bear was placed at the letterbox. A bucket containing lilies and daisies sat at the door.

The roads around Knightsbridge and Kensington were at a virtual standstill for much of the day.

At Harrods, (it was business as usual, but one of the entrances was closed to allow visitors to sign books of condolence for Dodi Fayed and the Princess. A framed card bore their names and dates of birth and death.

Elena Dews, 14, from Muswell Hill, north London, had pinned a note to the wall. "To Dodi, I only knew you recently because of your relationship with Princess Diana but you made her so happy in the last few weeks of her life that we thank you for it."

Extra switchboard operators were employed to deal with hundreds of calls of sympathy. In the queue outside the department store were Carol Matthews, 45, and her sister Denise, 37, from Hillingdon, west London, who had already laid flowers at St James's Park and Buckingham Palace.

"We are here because Dodi gave her some of the happiest times of her life," said Denise Matthews. The sisters also stood at the gates of RAF Northolt when the Princess's body was flown home on Sunday evening. Carol Matthews said: "I switched on my clock radio at 7.45 on Sunday. It was just total disbelief. Tears were falling from my eyes without me even realising it."

In other cities there were similar scenes. Cardiff City Hall became the focus for the Welsh tributes. Hundreds began queuing early to sign a Welsh National book of condolence which will remain open until after the funeral. Flowers were placed at the British embassy in Dublin.



The queue outside St James's Palace yesterday: the waiting grew to five hours, but mourners said they were glad to give time to someone who had time for them

PRINCESS: PARIS

Mixture of alcohol and machismo proved fatal

By Charles Bremner in Paris and Andrew Pierce

IT WOULD be hard to concoct a plot for more certain disaster than the fusion of alcohol, adrenalin and machismo that seems to have led to the deaths of Diana, Princess of Wales, Dodi Fayed and their driver.

A late-night battle with a squadron of pillon-riding French paparazzi and their notoriously aggressive motorcycle drivers would have been bad enough after a hard day of cat-and-mouse around the streets of Paris. The choice of an allegedly drunk driver multiplied beyond measure the chance of disaster.

The driver, Henri Paul, had been on two courses at Mercedes Benz in Stuttgart for drivers of both bullet-proof and conventional limousines, and had learnt anti-terrorist and anti-hijacking techniques.

Michael Cole, the public affairs director of Harrods, said that M Paul, who was single, had been an officer in the French Navy. "Through-out his service with the Hotel Ritz there had never been a problem with him of any description. He was a conscientious and responsible member of staff. He was deputy head of security at the hotel, but he had driving duties from time to time."

The hotel said that he had been employed as a security assistant director for 11 years. During that time he would have not only been in charge of security, but would "very often" have driven VIPs around town.

Mercedes Benz said yesterday that the model in which the Princess and Mr Fayed died was armoured-plated. Because of their extra weight, such vehicles can be difficult to handle.

A few hours after the crash, Mohamed Al Fayed praised the driver of the car. A statement yesterday said: "Mr Al Fayed paid tribute to the

chauffeur who had served the Hotel Ritz for many years and was an excellent driver and exceptional member of staff."

But it emerged yesterday that the driver's drunken condition was apparently well known to Ritz staff, who are believed to have alerted the photographers' lawyers several hours before police confirmed the blood test results.

One of the paparazzi's solicitors said last night: "An anonymous person called our office at 1pm today and said everybody at the Ritz knew that he was drunk when he left the hotel. It seems it was common knowledge. We planned to bring this to the attention of the investigating magistrate as soon as we were able to meet him."

The hotel said that M Paul met Mr Fayed and the Princess when they arrived by plane in Paris earlier in the day. He drove them into the city. They were then driven around by another chauffeur who was assigned to them.

While they were having dinner in the hotel, about 30 press men gathered at the entrance in the Place Vendôme. Their car and a back-up car were brought to the front of the hotel and were both surrounded by the press, forcing the couple to leave by a rear exit. M Paul was sent to meet them.

Mr Fayed's usual chauffeur acted as a decoy. Some photographers chased him while M Paul left in the "standby-car" with the Princess and Mr Fayed.

M Paul's condition could account for a version of events given yesterday by Gilbert Collard, lawyer for one of the photographers. He said that the Mercedes driver had boasted to a motorcycle driver, "You won't be able to catch me" as he pulled away from the Ritz. The Princess and Mr

Fayed were not wearing seatbelts, as required by French law.

According to Mr Cole, the pursuing photographers on their pillion seats flashed "blitz" lights into the driver's eyes. "It was like a stagecoach surrounded by Indians."

One high-powered motorcycle also weaved in front of the Mercedes S280 to slow it down. Mr Cole said: "One eyewitness said the heavy motorbike in front was turning right, in front of the car, to try an arrest it — try and stop it so the others could keep up. The others were around the car. I'm told they started taking pictures as it proceeded towards the Place de la Concorde."

Witnesses said the photographers, riding motorcycles, had surrounded the Mercedes before it entered the tunnel at the Pont de l'Alma. Within seconds the car slammed into a concrete post, spun and hit a tunnel wall.

Frédéric Maillez, an off-duty doctor who arrived on the scene moments after the crash, reported yesterday that the Princess "was unconscious ... moaning and gesturing in every direction."

"I saw that two people were dead and two were seriously hurt. I went back to my car to call emergency services and give them a first medical assessment before returning to the site with some of my equipment," he said on French television.

"I went to the aid of the young woman in the back who turned out to be Lady Diana. I did not recognise her immediately," Dr Maillez said. The Princess's head lay sideways on her shoulder, constricting her breathing. "I helped to free her upper respiratory tracts. I lifted her head and helped her breathe with an oxygen mask."

An American family who had been travelling past in a taxi described their shock at seeing photographers snapping off close-up pictures of the Princess as she lay, with part of her body forced through the windscreen. "Poor woman. Her head was turned to the side ... The other passengers weren't visible," said Robin Firestone. She and her husband, Jack, had not known of the victim's identity until they heard the news on Sunday.

About five photographers jostled to get past police, some of them trying to take pictures of the injured Princess from close range. "I know the difference between police and press photographers, with their long lenses, their vests and lots of equipment," Mrs Firestone said.

Amid the widespread eulogies to the late Princess, some



"Women often have an advantage": Chief Superintendent Martine Monteil, chief of the elite Criminal Brigade in the Paris police

A woman Maigret seeks the truth

"IMAGINE Catherine Deneuve playing Maigret." The image was used by *Le Figaro* to give a flavour of Chief Superintendent Martine Monteil, the chief of the elite Paris detective force that is investigating the accident.

Many a criminal has been thrown off guard by the appearance of Mme Monteil, the highest-ranking woman officer in the French force. An elegant Parisienne, the *patron* of the Brigade Criminelle looks far removed from a hard-bitten cop. However, Mme Monteil, 46, the daughter, grand-daughter and wife of police officers, prides herself on being a true *flic* down to her elegant fingernails.

"I'm not some movie star," she

tells interviewers. "*Je suis flic*." In a well-publicised career, she has caught some of the toughest criminal gangs, rounded up drug dealers and, among other victories, put away Madame Claude, who tried to restart a network of high-class prostitutes five years ago.

Mme Monteil is said to have convinced her superiors of her grit and detective's instinct with a string of arrests when she was a senior officer in the late 1980s in the anti-drug brigade, one of the most demanding assignments in the force.

A law graduate who joined the Police Judiciaire, equivalent to the CID, Mme Monteil was appointed chief of the Criminal Brigade early

last year after proving her worth as leader of the Brigade de Répression du Banditisme, a unit that uses muscular methods against organised crime. Like all her previous promotions, her appointment was given heavy media cover by a force that is struggling to humanise its image.

La Crim, as the Criminal Brigade is known, is a unit of 110 handpicked officers which handles major terrorist acts, high-profile murders and politically sensitive cases of all types.

The unit, which is based at the Quai des Orfèvres, known to fans of Maigret, its most famous fictional member, would not normally tackle a car accident but the powerful international overtones made it the

obvious choice for Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the interior minister.

Mme Monteil, a believer in leading from the front, has herself questioned each of the seven photographers detained since the crash, according to police sources. Persistence and quiet charm are the methods that produce the best results, she says.

She told *The Times* recently: "Women often have an advantage and can play on it skilfully. I once dealt with the case of a stranger rapist who'd killed several women. There had been a huge hunt."

"I used a bit of psychology. I managed to get him to confess after the other inspectors had failed," she said.



Frédéric Maillez said he saw Princess "moaning"

Four photographers to face charges after tunnel crash

Stephen Farrell looks at lawyers' claims that paparazzi are innocent

FOUR photographers were expected to be charged last night with failing to give assistance and flight from the scene of the accident, despite disclosures that the driver had been drunk. More serious charges seemed less likely and several photographers were expected to be released without charge.

William Bourdon, a lawyer for the Sipa agency, which had one photographer detained, said: "All the people who wanted to accuse the photographers and blame them for this should have been more cautious and prudent. The fact that the driver consumed alcohol ties in with the crazy speed at which he was driving. It just shows that no photographer was directly or indirectly involved with causing this accident. People should have been more careful before accusing them."

Lawyers and colleagues of the seven paparazzi yesterday gave accounts vastly different

from the Fayed version of events. A source close to the legal team of Jacques Langevin, an award-winning photographer with the Sygma agency, claimed he arrived at the scene by accident. He pointed out that M Langevin was more used to covering news assignments in Africa and claimed he only happened to be on call that night when told to go to the Ritz.

He said: "The most important point to make is that he arrived after it happened, and he was in a car, not on a motorbike. He did not follow them. He could not because he had to walk to his car after they left and that took time. When you are on foot and you have a Ferrari in a Ferrari, you just say 'goodbye'."

He claimed that M Langevin had simply driven in the same direction and had arrived at the crash site after police but was still arrested by police who seized all his photographic equipment and

films. He saw his lawyer for less than half an hour on Sunday evening and was reportedly "shocked" by the deaths. "He was just passing, perhaps on his way home. It is a main road. Everyone uses it. He is not a paparazzi at all, he is only on call once a month, and this happened to be his day."

M Langevin's legal team believe the police handling of the case was dictated by public pressure. "It is a special case. He should not have been arrested. The police were doing their job but perhaps a little excessively, because the victim was a celebrity and very popular both in France and in Britain," the source said.

Thierry Secretan, editor-in-chief of Sygma, confirmed lawyers' claims that his photographer did not chase the Mercedes. He said M Langevin went to the Ritz at 9pm, took an inoffensive picture of the couple leaving, then

returned to a dinner party he had earlier left, driving the same route by chance.

"When he arrived at the same time as the police cars he started to take pictures, as any professional would arriving at the scene of a major accident. He was arrested immediately. He was in the wrong place at the wrong time."

He expected M Langevin to be released later after discussions between the prosecutor and lawyers. "It is obvious from the pictures taken at the hotel that Diana was not running away from them to the car. She was relaxed. Who was responsible for hiring this driver. God knows?"

M Bourdon, the lawyer for Nicolas Arsov, a Sipa agency freelance photographer, said he believed his client was not at the Ritz but had simply been called to the scene of the accident as a news photographer. He added: "There is a risk of a witch-hunt. The pressure is enormous on the

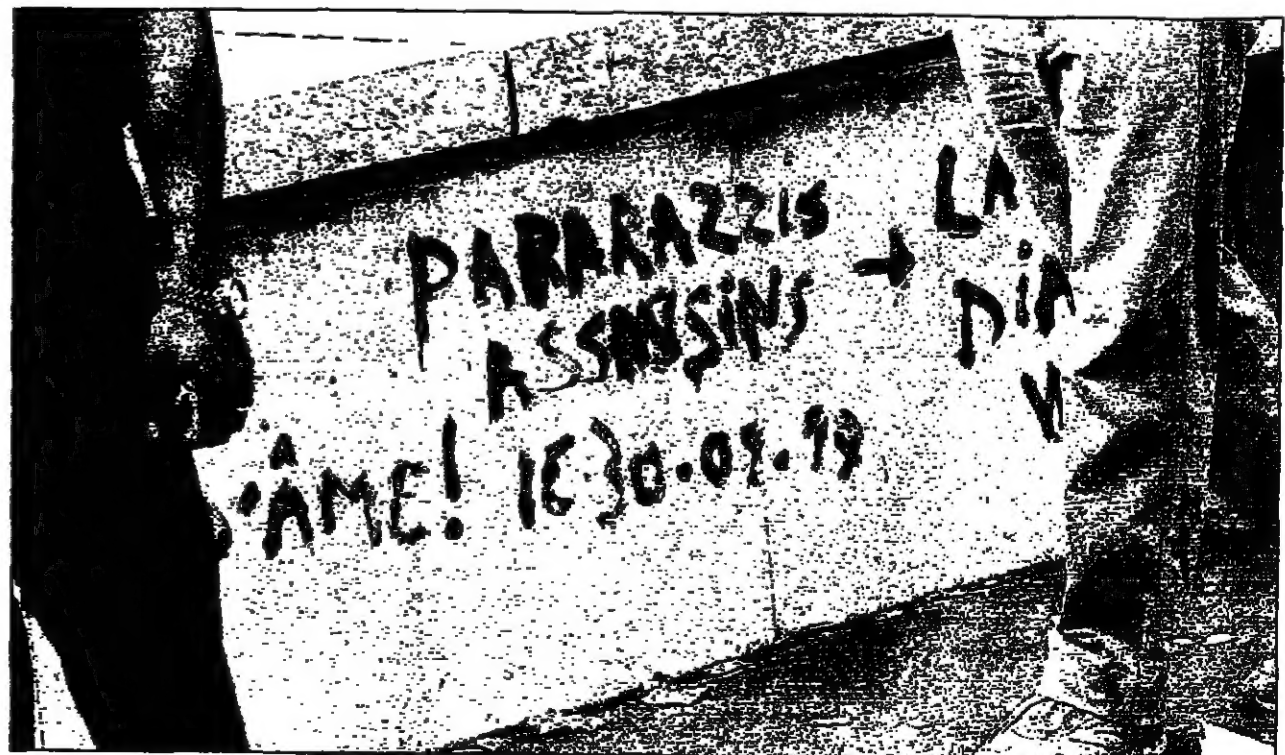
to satisfy cries 'murderer'." *Le Monde* said Diana was the "incarnation of an epoch that practises, sometimes to the point of madness, the cult of the body, of hedonism, of physical beauty, an epoch in which the media stars are actors, models, grand couturiers ... The Princess moved in the global media village in which celebrities are by turn victims, accomplices and manipulators of the press."

The RAC said research showed that there were more incidents of drink-driving related accidents in France than in Britain. "People over the limit do not fear danger in the same way that those driving soberly do. Over-the-limit drivers have their tension levels reduced and also their reaction times are greatly reduced as is their judgment. All these factors combine to produce a situation where an

accident is just waiting to happen."

Peter Luff, Conservative MP for Mid-Worcestershire, said: "The question that needs to be asked is how the mother of a future king was allowed to be driven by someone over the limit. It is all very well to protect people from the IRA, but we should be able to protect them also from being driven by drunkards, a much more mundane but, as it

turned out, fatal threat." Lawrie Quinn, the MP for Scarborough and Whitby, said the question now needed to be asked why the Princess did not have a proper police driver for the vehicle. This is one of those questions which we will not get an answer to," He said that the disclosure about the driver demonstrated that people should not simply offer knee-jerk reactions to events.



The outraged Paris public have been quick to brand the paparazzi as murderers in graffiti near the crash site

investigating judge and the police. ... My client did his job. He was told there was an accident, as far as I understand and it was his job to go. My client did not belong to this very tough, violent crowd of paparazzi. He is well known as a reasonable guy." He said he had been unable to see his

client. M Bourdon said the prosecutor could release them without charge, or charge them, and bring them before an investigating judge. The judge could then release a suspect pending the outcome of an investigation, or keep him in custody.

One of the photographers

being held by the French police has had a breakdown in custody, according to British cameraman Jason Fraser, the man who sold the first pictures of the Princess and Dodi Fayed on holiday together.

"I have already heard that a couple of the photographers involved in following the Prin-

cess of Wales in Paris have taken it very badly, as I'm sure they should. One of them I know, for instance, has taken it really, really badly and has had a breakdown over it. I think it is a very hard lesson that everyone has now learnt." He was speaking on LBC radio in London.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: "الشيخ محمد بن زايد"

PRINCESS: PARIS

Bodyguard's parents wait at bedside

Life and soul at the rugby club and trusted servant of the Fayeds. Russell Jenkins reports

THE parents of Trevor Rees-Jones, Dodi Fayed's bodyguard, were last night at his bedside at the Paris hospital where he is being treated for injuries sustained in the car crash that killed the Princess.

Doctors said Mr Rees-Jones had severe head and chest injuries, but that his condition was stable. His life was not in danger.

He is being treated at the Pitié Salpêtrière hospital, where the Princess was pronounced dead early on Sunday. Members of the French anti-crime brigade are waiting to talk to Mr Rees-Jones, who is certain to provide key details of the moments leading to the fatal accident. Police hope to interview him within the next few days.

He will be held in the hospital's intensive care unit for several days and will not be flown back to England until next week, doctors said.

French police are still present in numbers outside the hospital gates and security guards were yesterday screening visitors next to a large mound of bouquets left by Parisians in memory of the Princess.

Relatives of the injured bodyguard reacted angrily last night to news that the driver in the crash had been drinking. Sarah Ann Rees, his grandmother, said: "It's dreadful to think an accident which killed three people and seriously injured my grand-

son was caused by drink. This is the most awful news and a terrific shock."

Trevor Rees-Jones's wife, Sue, mother and stepfather, Gill Rees and Ernie Jones, flew to France on Sunday and are staying at Mohamed Al Fayed's private residence in Paris waiting for news.

Leuan Jones, the bodyguard's father-in-law, who is a dairy farmer near Oswestry, said that Trevor had serious facial, head and chest injuries. Surgeons had carried out a tracheotomy and he was breathing with the aid of a ventilator.

"They are waiting for the swelling on his face to go down before they can operate. He is in and out of consciousness. They said they had only seen his eyes open once but he was aware that they were there," he said.

Mr Jones, who hopes to fly out to Paris in a few days time, added: "I am sure that his Army training will have helped him to survive the crash. It is unbelievable that anyone came out of it alive."

Mr Rees-Jones, 29, lived an extraordinary double life, moving between his job protecting the Princess and Dodi Fayed and his life at home in a Shropshire village. He accompanied the Princess and his employer during their highly publicised holiday together in Sardinia.

The former paratrooper, who completed two tours of duty in Northern Ireland,

confided only in his most immediate family about his role. At home he was known as the life and soul of the party at Oswestry Rugby Club was the soul of discretion. At Whitlington, near the Welsh border, the 6ft 2in, 16-stone rugby player never spoke of his other job.

Mr Rees-Jones's physical and mental toughness came to the fore at the age of 17 when his father, Dr Colin Rees, a GP in Oswestry, died of a heart attack. He was one of three brothers.

He spent six years in the armed forces with two stints in Northern Ireland. He is said to be a former member of the close protection team of the Royal Military Police who protect VIPs.

Trevor Rees, who added his wife's maiden name to his own when he married, giving him the double-barrelled surname, Rees-Jones, joined the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment in August 1987.

The bodyguard to Dodi Fayed served with the regiment in Northern Ireland but did not take part in the Gulf War. The Ministry of Defence said yesterday, for his duties in Ulster he was awarded the General Service Medal with Northern Ireland clasp. He was a lance corporal when he left the Army in August 1992.

He joined Mohamed Al Fayed's team of bodyguards three years ago. Mr Jones said that he got the job after only one interview. "That is the mark of the lad," he said. "He has never once thought about exploiting his position or its spinoffs."

Two years ago he married his wife Sue, whom he met while they were both at Fitzalan School in Oswestry. Sue, once a buyer for Harrods, opened a kitchen and gift shop in Oswestry last October.

She first learned of the car crash in the early hours of Sunday as she and an Australian girlfriend were returning to Whitlington from Oswestry after a meal. She overheard a report on the taxi radio.

Her family acknowledged that the marriage has hit a rocky patch in recent months. However Mr Jones said: "There is nothing in this world that would have stopped her from flying to Paris even if she had to cycle all the way there. I would like to tap him on the shoulder and tell him his dad's here." Mr Rees-Jones's grandmother, Sarah Ann Rees, said from her home in Llanfyllin in Mid Wales: "I knew he would survive. It is almost like having a sixth sense. He will get through it. He is a strong lad and he has been to hell and back, with his father dying ten years ago."



Tears of sympathy: two Parisians wipe their eyes after signing the book of condolence at the British Embassy in Paris yesterday



Trevor Rees-Jones and his wife Sue on their wedding day in Shropshire two years ago

How drink impairs the ability to drive

AT 175 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood, even a large muscular man accustomed to drinking would have drunk about 13 units of alcohol: that is 6½ pints of beer, or nearly 1½ bottles of wine.

At 175mg a drinker is obviously drunk. He would not even be able to persuade an unsophisticated great aunt that he was sober. The voice would be slurred, vocabulary limited, conversation repetitive, movements clumsy and there would be character changes as self-control slipped.

The forceful would be becoming aggressive, the tense quarrelsome, the relaxed and jolly exuberant, and the dashing foolhardy. At this level of drinking even the experienced driver and bon vivant would lose judgment, muscular co-ordination and vision, the three essential qualities for safe driving.

The vision would be blurred and he would begin to suffer from double vision and his ability to focus would be severely reduced. This could produce night blindness as he entered the tunnel and his pupillary reaction would be slow to react to the changing light.

It is standard advice that any alcohol affects driving skills. Although this may be a wise doctrine research has shown that it is an oversimplification. It is hard to show any loss of driving skills in those who are accustomed to alcohol who have had two half pints, two



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

glasses of wine or two tots of beer. At this level intellect is slightly sharpened.

The metabolism of alcohol takes place at a constant rate in any particular person. It is usually assumed that the average fit man metabolises alcohol — or sobers up — at the rate of one unit an hour. Experienced regular drinkers are thought to metabolise alcohol at a rate 25 per cent faster than this, but recent research has suggested that they may even increase this rate by a third.

A man, therefore, who had been drinking over a long period, during an evening for instance, must have metabolised some of the alcohol he had drunk by the time blood was collected, and so the final reading may well underestimate the amount drunk.

Blood should always be taken as soon as possible after death, but a delay of even a few hours would make little difference. Dr Sidney Rosalki, a consultant chemical pathologist, said: "Even the lapse of several hours would have little influence on the blood alcohol level if a suitable sample was collected. There would

neither be a problem of evaporation of the alcohol, which might cause an artificial lowering of the figure, nor would there be any increase in the blood alcohol as the result of decomposition as a consequence of bacterial or yeast action.

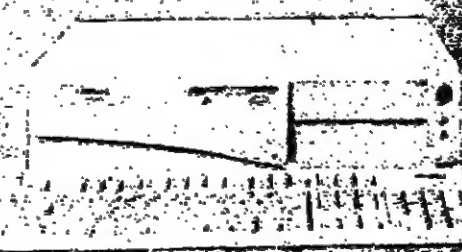
"However, experienced the heavy drinker, a blood alcohol level of over 150 mgs carries with it the presumption of intoxication, in layman's language the subject is drunk."

When there has been a long delay before blood has been collected after death, there are tables which will make the necessary correction in the estimate. Or, conversely, blood alcohol levels in other fluids which are sterile, such as those inside the eye, is possible.

At 50 milligrams per cent, three drinks or thereabouts, which is the French legal limit, judgment may not longer be so sharp or reaction as quick, and tests will show that most, but not all, people's driving is no longer at its best. At 80 milligrams per cent, the British courts have decided that driving is impaired to the point when it could be a danger to oneself, or other road users.

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PRINCESS: HER ESTATE



Sapphire and diamond brooch the Princess added to a multi-strand pearl choker

William and Harry to inherit bulk of fortune

BY FRANCES GIBB AND RICHARD FORD

PRINCES William and Harry will be the main beneficiaries of the will drawn up by Diana, Princess of Wales, at the time of her £17 million divorce.

The divorce settlement was complex, with a proportion of the fortune being held in various trusts. While the bulk of what was given to the Princess is likely to pass to her two children, not everything will automatically do so. The

Princess had no property, as she lived in a grace and favour apartment at Kensington Palace, which will eventually become a home for another member of the Royal Family. The Palace provides homes for Princess Margaret, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent. The use of property such as Kensington Palace would have been granted for

her lifetime, as would have other facilities and possibly certain jewellery, such as family heirlooms. The Princess inherited a small sum on the death of her father, the 8th Earl Spencer, which was invested for her.

The Princess will have nominated executors, who are likely to include her solicitor, Anthony Julius, as well as an accountant and probably a member of the family.

Susan Midha, head of the personal estates planning department at Manches, the London law firm, said that the divorce settlement was likely to have contained a clause preventing either party from challenging the original deal on the ground that it was made for a longer life expectancy.

She said that the Princess was also likely to have named trustees who will manage the funds for the children, at least until they are 18. These trustees may or may not be the same as the executors. The trustees may have been granted flexibility to ensure that the

children receive funds according to their needs, and that Prince William is not in a much more advantageous position as a future heir to the throne. The question of a guardian for the children is unlikely to arise as the Prince of Wales is still alive.

Ms Midha said one of the executors is likely to have been appointed to deal with the Princess's personal effects, such as dresses, jewellery and papers. "When the residue is established, that would go to the trustees," she added. "She could even have appointed a literary executor to be in charge of her papers and exploit them for the benefit of the will beneficiaries."

Richard Bark-Jones, a probate lawyer with Morecroft Urquhart in Liverpool, said the executors would be likely to apply for the grant of probate within six months. At that stage the will would be a public document and the total value, but not the details, of the estate, both gross and net of inheritance tax, would be

known. The executors could delay longer, but that would "tie the money up", he said.

The multimillion-pound collection of jewellery given to the Princess by the Queen and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on her engagement and marriage will return to the Royal Family. Under the terms of her divorce settlement, the Princess agreed that items special to the Royal Family would revert to them on her death. The deal ensured that royal jewels would not be sold on the open market, where they would fetch huge prices because of their links with the monarchy. But individual items given to her by the Prince of Wales, including her £28,500 sapphire and emerald engagement ring, were for the Princess to leave to whom she wished.

At the time of the divorce settlement, a Buckingham Palace spokesman said: "The Princess has agreed that jewellery given to her by the Royal Family will remain with her for her lifetime, and there-

after, as is the tradition, will revert to the family."

It was unclear last night whether jewellery, including a sapphire and diamond pendant and matching bracelet that was given to the Princess by Saudi Arabia, or other gifts given to her during state visits, would be among the gems returning to the Royal Family or would have been for the Princess to dispose of as she wished.

Her personal papers, diaries and clothes were also for the Princess to will to whom she wished. A Buckingham Palace spokesman said last night: "Papers and dresses were her's to do as she wished with. Where they go depends on her will."

Before her marriage, the Princess owned little spectacular jewellery and after the separation and divorce was rarely seen wearing gifts such as those from the Queen and the Queen Mother. Among the pieces of jewellery returning to the Royal Family will be gems worn by Queen Mary, wife of George V, and Queen Alexan-

dra, wife of Edward VII. The most important piece in her collection is the Queen Mary tiara, which was made by Garrard, the crown jewellers, in 1914 and was a personal gift to the Princess from the Queen on her marriage. The Queen also gave the Princess an art deco style emerald and diamond necklace which the Princess later wore as a headband during a tour of Australia. It, too, had belonged to Queen Mary, the Queen's grandmother.

The Princess's engagement present from the Queen Mother was a chain with a diamond Prince of Wales feather oval pendant and emerald drop. It once belonged to Queen Alexandra. On her wedding day the Queen Mother gave the Princess an oval Sri Lankan sapphire brooch set with diamonds. The Princess, who rarely wore brooches, made it the centrepiece of a multi-strand pearl choker. It is estimated that this alone could fetch more than £1.5 million.

Necklaces, bracelets and rings given to the Princess by

her husband included the engagement ring, an art deco emerald and diamond bracelet, matching earrings, an inscribed gold medallion to mark the birth of Prince William, and a black and white pearl necklace for her 21st birthday.

The Princess is likely to have willed most of this personal collection of jewellery to her children for eventual use by their respective wives.

Lawyers who had worked for the Princess in the past did not know last night whether the executors of her estate would be able to prevent commercial companies from exploiting her memory.

The Princess recognised her value to the commercial sector, saying in her 1995 *Panorama* interview: "You see yourself as a good product that sits on a shelf and sells well and people make a lot of money out of you."

Majesty magazine once calculated that this alone could generate £14.5 million of free publicity every year for the products she bought.



The Queen Mary pearl and diamond tiara, given to the Princess by the Queen at her wedding. It is the centrepiece of the Princess's collection



The £28,500 engagement ring given by the Prince

Charities discuss ways to keep a potent force for good

Suggestions include an annual fundraising day in the Princess's name, and a special foundation or trust, reports Alexandra Frean

CHARITIES that had close ties with the Princess are to join forces to launch a memorial to her work for the voluntary sector.

Under consideration are a Princess Diana Foundation or Trust Fund. Another option is the declaration of an annual fundraising "Diana Day".

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations is writing to the Princess's favourite charities, including the six with which she had formal links, to ask for their views on the establishment of a "long-lasting and fitting tribute or memorial" to her.

Adam Gaines, the council's director of public affairs, said that the Princess had become a potent symbol for the entire voluntary sector, raising awareness of difficult and controversial issues as well as raising funds for charities' coffers.

"We want to help the sector to remember her contribution. A trust fund in the Princess's memory is one idea, so is the dedication of a particular day of the year to her. Given her particular ability to communicate and to

make people feel cared for, we will want to focus on ways of reflecting that," he said.

The council's proposals came amid a flood of calls to charities linked with the Princess from members of the public wanting to know how they could make donations as a tribute to her work.

Although all of the charities linked to the Princess believe that it is still too early to decide what to do to mark her life, many yesterday responded positively to the council's proposals for a lasting memorial.

While most charity managers say it is impossible to put a precise value on the contribution the Princess brought to their work, all agree that she was a powerful fundraiser as well as a potent ambassador for their causes, and most are keen to ensure that this contribution contin-

ues in some form. Some estimates have put the Princess's monetary contribution to the charitable sector at £11 million a year, through her backing for fundraising campaigns.

Many charities believe that the Princess gave them something that money simply could not buy. Gavin Hart, a spokesman for the National Aids Trust, said: "In terms of raising awareness about Aids, her value as an ambassador was incalculable."

Mr Hart said it was important for the achievements to be honoured appropriately. "We are keen to take part in any discussion about that," he added.

In the meantime, the trust has opened a "book of hope" to collect tributes and messages of affection from people with HIV and Aids and their friends and families. It is also

opening a bank account to collect donations from members of the public wanting to pay tribute to the Princess.

Anna Barlowe, spokeswoman for the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, said that proposals for a lasting memorial to the Princess were "a lovely idea". The hospital has set up a memorial fund in the Princess's name. It has also decided to turn a fundraising concert on November 12, planned in conjunction with the Royal Academy and due to have been attended by the Princess, into a memorial concert.

The British Red Cross said it, too, would be interested in taking part in discussions on a lasting memorial. Yesterday it invited members of the public wanting to mark the Princess's death to contribute to its Landmine Appeal.

A spokeswoman for Barnardo's, with which the Princess had close ties for 12 years before her divorce was finalised last year, said: "In principle, a special day to remember Diana would be a very good idea."

Richard Corbett, the Labour MEP for Merseyside

The Princess in May visiting rehearsals for *Swan Lake* by the English National Ballet, of which she was patron

West, said he would be willing to lend a hand in establishing a Princess Diana Fund, which could benefit charities with which she was most closely associated. "I am sure that if this were

done speedily, it could raise an enormous amount of money and would not be incompatible with any future plans," he said.

For Marilyn Ecton, from Kirkham, Lancashire, who

met the Princess as she battled against breast cancer, the most recent letter she received is the most poignant. It was written last week on board the yacht at St Tropez.

Mrs Ecton, 56, said she was deeply touched by the continuing concern of the Princess. "She said she was most encouraged at hearing about the sale of her dresses and how they had raised vast amounts for charity."

PRINCESS: HER CHILDREN

Prince to shoulder the main burden of bringing up sons

NACHELLE CROWTHER / SWNS

Tiggy Legge-Bourke, who cared for the Princes, would seem the obvious choice to provide the boys with hugs, writes Emma Wilkins

THE Prince of Wales will take prime responsibility for comforting Prince William and Prince Harry as they grieve for their mother, the may, however, decide to seek further practical help from Tiggy Legge-Bourke, his former personal assistant who was responsible for the Princes' care until earlier this year.

Miss Legge-Bourke, 31, is held in great affection by both the young Princes who adore her warmth, kindness and high spirits.

Relations between the Princess and Miss Legge-Bourke were cool, partly because their styles were so similar: both have always shown affection in a very tactile way and shower the young princes in hugs and kisses.

A photograph of Miss Legge-Bourke hugging Prince Harry, 12, at Sandringham, just before Christmas particularly upset the Princess. She felt the Royal assistant ought not to have made such an affectionate display in front of the cameras, but Prince Harry's delight was clear for all to see.

In the absence of any other suitable figure, Miss Legge-Bourke would seem the obvious choice for providing the boys with much needed hugs. While the Queen and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother adore the young Princes, their styles are of a different, less demonstrative generation.

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Although she left her job in the Prince of Wales' office, at St James's Palace, at Easter,

Her relaxed style and good humour made her the ideal guest for Prince William to invite to Eton this summer

his grandsons. But, at 76, his role in their upbringing is more likely to be that of wise counsellor than active participant.

The Princes are fond of their cousins, Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, and aunt, the Duchess of York. While she wants to offer the Princes any support they need, it is unlikely that Buckingham Palace would want the Duchess to actively participate in their upbringing.

The Princes are also close to Emille van Cutsem and her husband Hugh, a landowner. The couple have children of similar ages to the Princes. The family accompanied the Prince of Wales and the Princess on safari in Kenya and Tanzania during the Easter holiday.



Prince Harry with Tiggy Legge-Bourke at a polo event in July. She is held in great affection by both the young Princes

Sons may lose their London home

BY EMMA WILKINS

PRINCE WILLIAM and Prince Harry are expected to stay at Balmoral with their father, the Queen and other members of the Royal Family until they travel to London for the funeral on Saturday.

Until now, the boys had spent half their school holidays with the Princess and half with the Prince. Their occasional weekends out of school were also scrupulously divided between the Prince and Princess.

While no definite arrangements have been made, it seems likely that the young Princes will leave their

London home at Kensington Palace. The Palace had been home to the Princes since her marriage to the Prince. It also houses Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and other members of the Royal Household.

The Prince of Wales moved out of Kensington Palace before the couple separated officially in 1993. When he is in London, he stays at his flat at St James's Palace.

The Prince's estate at Highgrove in Gloucestershire is the boys' other home, and it is likely that they will now make that their base. The young Princes also have

bedrooms at Balmoral, and at Sandringham, the Queen's Norfolk estate, where they spend every Christmas.

The new arrangement could mean that Camilla Parker Bowles, who lives at Lacock in Wiltshire, about 30 minutes' drive from Highgrove, will spend less time at Highgrove, as the Prince has undertaken that his sons will not be introduced to her. At the moment, Mrs Parker Bowles visits the Prince most weekends when he is in residence. However, since the boys often remain in school at weekends, or receive day visitors at school, Mrs Parker Bowles will

still be able to visit the Prince at his country home.

While they are at Highgrove, Prince William and Prince Harry enjoy shooting and fishing with their father. The country pursuits are in sharp contrast to the outings they used to share in London with their mother — go-kart racing, the cinema or accompanying the Princess on visits to deprived people in the capital.

Among the most glamorous treats the Princess arranged for her elder son was an invitation for Cindy Crawford, the supermodel, to come to tea at Kensington Palace so that William could meet her.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Coroner sets first royal inquest

An inquest into the death of the Princess will be held in London once the French authorities have provided detailed evidence to the coroner (Richard Ford writes). It will be conducted by Dr John Burton, coroner to the Royal Household, who will hear evidence from pathologists and witnesses.

Harry Brown, coroner's officer, said yesterday that he believed it was the first time in history that an inquest had been held on a member of the Royal Family. An inquest on Dodi Fayed will be carried out by the Surrey coroner.

Flag lowered

Windsor Castle broke with protocol to fly the Union Flag at half mast, after public complaints. Because the castle and the Tower of London are royal fortresses, the flag always flies at full mast except on the death of the Sovereign. However, castle officials said: "The public must be seen to be listened to." At Balmoral the Royal Standard — which flies where the Monarch is in residence — has remained in its usual position.

Games proceed

Thousands of people will attend the annual Braemar Highland games close to Balmoral Castle on Saturday, after organisers said that palace officials had told them to go ahead with the event. As the Princess's funeral takes place in London, athletes, pipers and members of the Armed Forces will compete in the games. At 11.00am the athletes will observe a period of silence and a piper will play the lament, *Flowers of the Forest*.

Funeral on TV

BBC1 is expected to provide a continuous broadcast of the funeral from early on Saturday, simultaneously with Radio 4, Radio 5 Live and Radio 1. ITN will also cover the event throughout the day. Channel 4 has cancelled three programmes felt to be inappropriate: last night's hospital documentary *Coma* and tonight's hospital documentary *Trauma* and the 1965 film *Darling*, about a celebrity's tragic death.

Launch delay

The Duchess of York has postponed a press conference in New York tomorrow at which she was to have unveiled a "new, ultra-simple diet" for Weight Watchers. The much-touted event will now be held at a "more appropriate" time. There are also reports that Sotheby's will postpone its auction in New York of the personal effects of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, which was scheduled to have begun next week.

Eton and its 'second family' is likely choice for Harry

Boarding schools are not the harsh institutions of Victorian times and the brothers will get the best pastoral care there, writes David Charter

ETON is likely to be the Prince of Wales's choice for his younger son next year so that Prince Harry can be with Prince William and his trusted housemaster, Dr Andrew Gailey.

The princes will miss a week of term, due to start this week, on compassionate leave from their boarding schools. Both Eton, where 15-year-old William is about to start his third year, and Ludgrove, the prep school in Berkshire where Harry, 13 on September 15, is to start his final year, pride themselves on strong pastoral care, making them "second families" to their boys.

The main duty of emotional care for both princes will fall upon the wives of the two men in day-to-day charge of their education.

William had not been looking forward to the start of term at £12,600-a-year Eton because the Palace was trying to persuade him to take part in a photocall there on the first day of term tomorrow.

He has lost an ally in his own battle to avoid the media with the death of his mother, whom he is believed to have

telephoned last week to complain about the photocall.

William is in Manor House at Eton, where Shauna Gailey, the wife of the housemaster, will be on hand to offer him comfort.

Andrew Gailey himself is said to be "outstanding" in his care of the 50 boys in the house. He and Mrs Gailey were a great comfort to William during and after the break-up of his parents' marriage last spring.

While the Gaileys will act as surrogate guardians for William at Eton, he can also count on strong support from his "extended family" of close friends who share his house. The group who eat and live together include three boys who were with William at Ludgrove. They are Andrew Charlton, who went to Euro Disney with Prince William and his mother last year, Johnny Richards, who shares his love of rugby, and Harry Walsh, the former captain of Ludgrove.

There is no set system for dealing with bereavement at Eton and decisions on whether William is excused lessons

or homework will be taken on a day-to-day basis, in consultation with the Prince of Wales.

Relatives and friends are free to visit him during term time and there is no requirement to remain at school over the weekend.

An Eton source said yesterday: "Things are not as they were in Victorian times. Many of the boys go away at weekends. Eton is very much their second family. The boys' prime source of loyalty is their house and they get to know each other very well. Eton, with its 25 different houses, is like 25 different schools, so there is a very close support group for him here."

He added: "We have to cope with family bereavements from time to time, as well as illness and separation, so you get used to recognising there is not a correct way of handling it which suits every individual. Things will not be able to be done simply on day one, but over a long period."

Prince William, who is happy at Eton, is likely to stay until the completion of his A levels at 18. Prince Harry's educational future has seemed

less certain in recent years as he proved something of a late developer academically.

At first, the Princess did not want either of her sons to go to boarding school until they were 13, but came round to the idea when she saw how happy they were at Ludgrove. The Waleses seemed to have little disagreement over the boys' schooling, and Eton was as much Diana's choice as Charles's, with inside knowledge provided by her father and brother, both Etonians.

Prince Harry has repeated a year at Ludgrove, staying to mature and find his feet academically. But he too is very happy there and will receive his main comfort from Janet Barber, the matron and headmaster's wife. Gerald Barber, the head, said yesterday: "We have got tremendous back-up here. When we had a sadness here last year we dealt with it together."

The original plan for Harry to follow William was given a boost by a recent decision by John Lewis, Head Master of Eton, to relax its strictly academic entry criteria, which would benefit the more sporty



Prince William signing the entrance book on his first day at Eton, watched by his parents and Prince Harry

Harry. His parents were said to be considering Radley College in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, but Radley is just as academic as Eton, which has the added advantage of William and his trusted housemaster to look out for him.

□ The prayers of children returning to school this week

will focus on Prince William and Prince Harry, David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said yesterday. In secondary schools especially pupils would be the same age and old enough to understand what they were going through. Schools that have already

started tackled the tragedy with their pupils yesterday. At Queniborough Primary School, near Leicester, the infants made a list of Diana's "special qualities" after prayers were said at assembly. Chris Davis, the head teacher, said: "We are going to have the list displayed in the hall so

we can have a centre for reflection, with a large picture of Diana." The Princess's top five qualities according to the four to seven-year-olds were: helping people, looking after the world, shaking hands with very poorly people, being a princess and collecting lots of money to help people.

PRINCESS: THE WORLD MOURNS

Grief for Diana is without borders

Jonathan Mirsky and Glen Owen
report on the world's mourning

THE death of the Princess of Wales was mourned around the world yesterday, across continents and through language barriers.

In Hong Kong, a book of remembrance was opened at the British Consulate-General as hundreds of people left flowers outside the building.

Francis Cornish, the Consul-General, who was the Princess's deputy private secretary in the early 1980s, said: "We are really very touched that since midday on Sunday so many people have telephoned and spoken to us to express their sense of shock and loss, and by the flowers which countless people have brought round. It is very moving."

Mothers and children, businessmen and the elderly, and people of all races came to pay their respects. One left a single white rose dedicated to the Princess's sons. Among those who signed the book were Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary, Daniel Fung, the Solicitor-General, and Martin Lee, chairman of the Democratic Party.

In Sydney, more than 1,000 mourners took part in a Mass for her in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, one of scores of memorial services across the country. Flags in state capitals flew at half mast and remembrance books opened in most British consulates.

The Australian Parliament passed a condolence motion before rising for an hour as a sign of respect. John Howard, the Prime Minister, told parliament that the Princess was a "beautiful, stylish" person

who "in a relatively short life experienced what many would regard as both the highs and lows of the ultimate public life".

The scenes were repeated across the Far East, with bouquets left outside the British High Commission in Malaysia and books of condolence opened at the embassies in Thailand and Bangladesh.

In Japan, Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, paid his respects, bowing before the Princess's picture at the British Embassy. "I would like to express my condolences," he said before criticising the media's treatment of her.

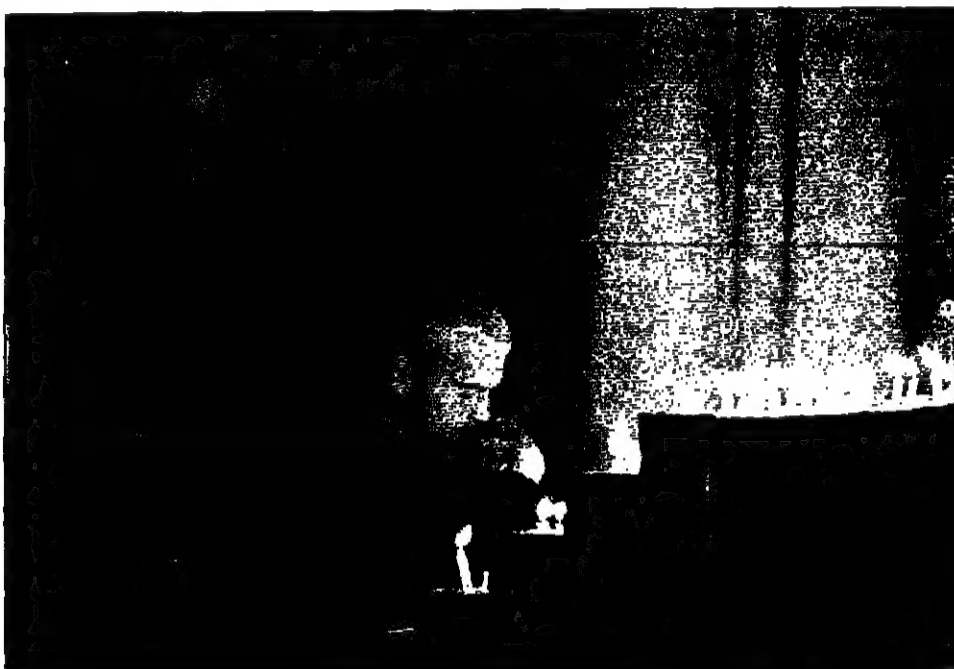
"I do not think it is in good taste to chase any private person," Mr Hashimoto said. "I guess she hated it. It is natural that [the media] should be asked to show self-restraint and they cannot help but come in for criticism."

"This could not happen here," an official of the Imperial Household Agency, which guards the privacy of members of the Japanese Royal Family, said. "Members of the Imperial Family do not have time to walk around on their own."

At the British Embassy in Washington, the closed gates were festooned with flowers and personal tributes, with single burning candles left overnight. One note read simply: "Diana - in peace at last." The tributes outside the embassy included books, balloons, stuffed animals, poems and a queen of hearts playing card.



Ryutaro Hashimoto paid his respects in Tokyo while King Hussein, below right, signed the book of condolence in Amman. Below left: mourners at a Mass in Sydney



New Yorkers mourn 'queen of the world'

IT TAKES a lot to make an entire city despondent, especially when that city is as cussed, as opinionated, and as anarchic as New York. But the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has sent New Yorkers into a tailspin of civic sorrow.

The Princess had a special relationship with New York. She visited the city at least once a month, setting high society here alight with her poise, her glamour and her *chutzpah*. She frequently expressed her fondness for Manhattan and tongues wagged often of a "likelihood" that she would one day make her home in its glitzy bosom.

New York loves royalty, and is home to more blueblood than any other city in the world. In this diaspora of the royal dispossessed, the Princess was dynamite. She was the mother of the heir to the British throne. She was winsome. She was never clad in anything but the finest couture. She even worked out regularly, a huge asset in a city that prizes muscled arms and crisp abdomens as much as it does money and intelligence.

New York City was made for the Princess as she was

The Princess's confident glamour and the dynamic glitz of Manhattan gave each a special and enduring affection for the other, writes Tunku Varadarajan

made for it. The two fed off each other, existing in a kind of glamorous symbiosis. New Yorkers never tire of talking about her. My barber, Mr Gomez, told me that he had a "Diana conversation" with a customer at least three or four times a day.

The handsome Carlyle Hotel, where the Princess usually stayed when visiting New

York, flew its flags at half-mast yesterday. "She certainly was loved in New York and seemed to respond very well to that," said Dan Camp, the hotel president. "There was a relaxed way about her being when she was in this city."

Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor of New York, was "horrified" by her death. He said: "I remember her saying that she loved New York City. New York City loved her very, very much."

New Yorkers took her to their hearts eight years ago, when she made the first of several visits without the Prince of Wales. That admiration reached its apogee in June when the Princess braved the badlands of the Bronx to visit an ailing Mother Teresa. "One brief flash lit up the Bronx," wrote a commentator in the *Daily News* yesterday.

She did, indeed, light up the Bronx. Present on that occasion, I witnessed how improv-

erished residents, drawn out from their tenements near by as if by some magnet, cheered the Princess as she stepped out on to the street. As a crowd gathered, a gap-toothed, elderly black woman tugged at my sleeve. "Who's coming?" she asked me. "Princess Diana," I told her. "Oh, Lawd," she gasped. "Dear Lawd, I have never seen Lady Diana. I thank you, sir. I thank you."

More recently, the Princess was embraced by the city for the generous manner in which she offered her vast collection of dresses for auction at Christie's, with the proceeds going to charity. In the eyes of New Yorkers, the occasion encapsulated the qualities of the Princess: elegance, glamour, selflessness and benevolence, all tied together with a firm thread of good humour.

Since the news of her death, hundreds of citizens have left flowers at the British Consulate. Many have left little notes. NaZeela Forbes, from Harlem, was one of them. Why was she there, I asked her? Why did she leave a bunch of roses for someone she had never met? "She was my idol," Miss Forbes replied. "She was the queen of the world. That's why."



Giuliani: "the city loved her very much"

Minute's silence at mine talks

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

DELEGATES from more than 100 countries attending negotiations to ban antipersonnel landmines stood for a one-minute silence yesterday in memory of the Princess of Wales. With their heads bowed, the delegates paid their respects in honour of her dedicated campaign to rid the world of the mines.

They were meeting in Oslo to negotiate a draft treaty banning the use, export, production and stockpiling of antipersonnel landmines, which, if agreed, will be signed in Ottawa in December. Although countries joining the negotiations, including Britain, have done so voluntarily, the treaty will be binding on all those who sign. The main mine producers, Russia and China, are not attending the meeting.

On the first day of the negotiations yesterday, the part played by the

Princess in giving the issue worldwide attention was recognised by the delegates. Opening the proceedings, Bjorn Tore Godal, the Norwegian Foreign Minister, said that the death of the Princess, the world's most prominent campaigner against landmines, had left a deep impression.

Three weeks ago Princess Diana visited the minefields in Bosnia. Once again she demonstrated her deep concern for the millions of innocent victims and emphasised how important she felt it was to ban landmines.

"We shall spare no efforts at this conference to achieve the goals she had set for herself," The Princess had been invited to attend the three-week conference.

The most important recent development was the decision by the United

States to send a delegation, after initially being sceptical about the value of a voluntary agreement. The Americans focused their efforts on a global ban being negotiated by the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. However, President Clinton changed his mind and agreed to join the so-called Ottawa process. Appeals by the Princess were thought to have influenced him.

The Oslo talks are expected to be tough, with the Americans demanding the right to keep landmines on the Korean peninsula. North Korea is separated from South Korea by a heavily mined border.

In Paris, Jacques Lang, head of the foreign affairs committee in the National Assembly, said that it would be "an act of justice" for the treaty to be called the Princess Diana Treaty.

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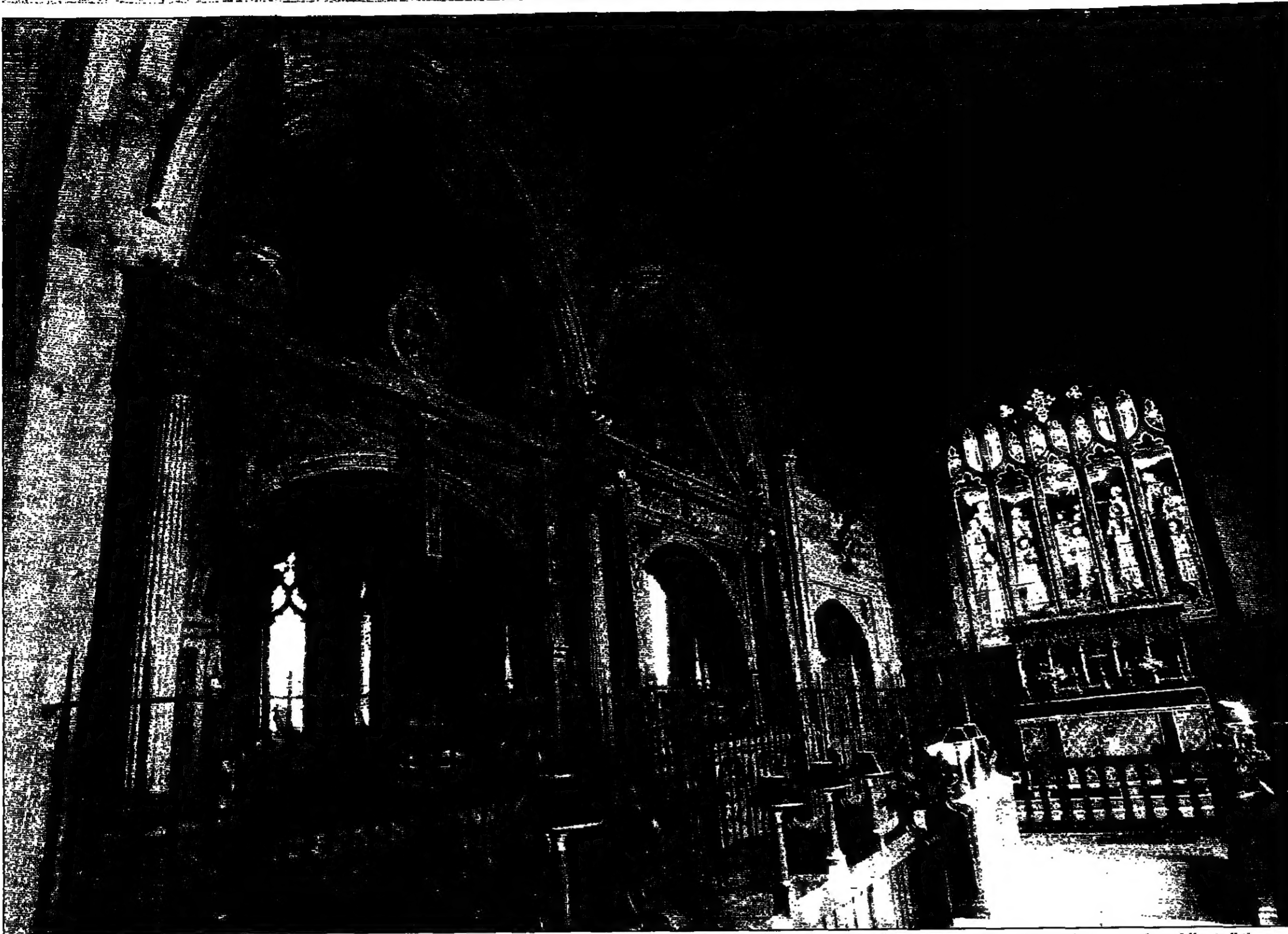
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PRINCESS: THE FINAL RESTING PLACE



Last resting place: the Princess will be interred in the Spencer family chapel, above, which is separated from the church by railings. The church, below, will continue to be open to the public at all times

It's right she should come home to rest, say villagers

Pride and grief are mingled at Althorp over historic links with the Spencer family, writes Joanna Bale

MIXED with the grief on the Althorp estate yesterday there was a kind of gladness that Diana, Princess of Wales, would have a final resting place among 20 generations of her ancestors in the family chapel.

Val Pearce, who went to pray at the St Mary the Virgin Church in the village of Great Brington, Northamptonshire, where the Princess will be buried, said: "This is where she spent many happy years

as a child so it is nice that she is coming home. Our community is devastated at her death. It should not have happened."

Mrs Pearce, of nearby Harpole, added: "We have always been proud that this is where Diana was brought up. It is sad to think that this is now where she will be buried after dying in such tragic circumstances."

The Spencer chapel inside St Mary's is visible to the

public through blue, iron railings. It features family tombs with effigies and includes the tomb of Lawrence Washington, the great-great-grandfather of George Washington, who was buried there in 1616. The Washingtons were cousins of the Spencers.

The first Spencer to be buried there almost 500 years ago was Sir John Spencer, who bought Althorp in 1508.

Diana will be buried near her father, the 8th Earl, in the church where her brother was married. It is one of the few churches in the district to remain open to the public at all times and a Spencer family spokeswoman confirmed yesterday that this would continue.

The family chapel within the building will continue to be private although the public will be able to view the tombs through the railings which divide it from the body of the church.

Earl Spencer, the Princess's brother, yesterday visited the church to finalise arrangements for Saturday's ceremony. He arrived at Althorp

yesterday morning after travelling from his home in South Africa. In a statement released through his London press office, Earl Spencer said that there would be a private service at St Mary's with only immediate members of the family in attendance. He went on to say that there would be a very brief ceremony conducted by a priest who is a family friend.

Appealing to the public to respect their privacy, the statement continued: "In view of the public nature of the earlier part of the day, respect for family privacy is only just."

As people travelled from miles around to place flowers at the church and outside the gates of Althorp, many said they were bitter at the way the Royal Family had treated the

Princess. Among the floral tributes was a bunch of crimson carnations with the words: "There was no need to die Diana — hounded to death by the paparazzi." A card on another bouquet read: "Now you and Dodi are in heaven you will both never be apart."

Betty Andrews, 76, who worked as a housekeeper and cook at Althorp until 1981, said: "It was Diana's ordinariness that I liked. She always wanted to help me cook and often ate with the staff rather than at the family table. When I retired, she used to visit me. I shall miss her."

Amidst the villagers' recollections of their princess, however, were some fears that the church would become a shrine to the princess, attracting thousands of tourists. Great Brington's postmistress,

Christine Whitley, said: "My initial reaction was: 'Great, this is where she should be,' but then I thought about the implications for the village."

"We are a very quiet village and this will bring a lot more people for a long time to come. We don't want it to turn into a circus, so we just hope that people will remember that the church is a place of worship."

Jean MacPherson, who is married to St Mary's priest-in-charge, David MacPherson, also expressed reservations. She said: "I spoke to the church warden and he was horrified because he felt it would not only be this week, but that there would be tremendous interest for years to come."

"After the princess has been buried here, it is obvious that people will come here to see

her grave. I am not horrified in the same way. I understand that people find themselves eager to visit."

"I am sure we will get used to it in time. It's understandable that not everyone will like it. I hope it won't taint the character of the village, but it's possible."

A 55-year-old man walking his dog through the village refused to give his name but agreed that the streets would be flooded with visitors. He said: "We shall be stacked out for a long, long time."

"They are going to have to build a coach park because every foreign tourist will be heading to Brington." The man, who said his wife worked at Althorp House, added: "Everybody will want to come to pay their respects. It will be like Elvis's grave."

William has to choose between parents' visions

By DANIEL MCGRODY

MARKETING strategists predict a "Diana cult" will eclipse the multimillion-dollar industry associated with such showbusiness icons as Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe.

A City of London public relations company said yesterday: "The Diana industry will dwarf anything we have seen before. The potential is incalculable."

What will concern the Queen and the Prince of Wales most is how they will confront the legacy of the Princess's influence on her children, especially the ideas that she discussed with Prince William about the future direction of the monarchy.

Those who were close to her tell of long discussions she had with her son about how she believed that the monarchy should adapt and how William might shape its future when he becomes King.

She would take him on secret visits at night to hostels for homeless people and drug addicts and would reinforce the need for a modern monarchy to play a more pivotal role in social affairs.

The Prince is said to have been "deeply affected" by these experiences. He was also impressed by the public adulation that his mother received and by the benefit that it brought for charities.

Mother and son were said to be in close agree-



Prince William: closer to mother

ment about how the monarchy should be more accountable to the public, at variance with the Prince of Wales's vision of its future course.

The question remains whether, at only 15 years, Prince William will abide by his mother's wish for his future or whether his father and others in the House of Windsor will prevail.

One royal source said last night: "Everyone recognises that they will have to live under the shadow of Diana in so many ways. It is understandable that her sons will want to respect her memory by following her wishes."

"William was closer to his mother and it is conceivable that his lasting legacy will be to enact her vision of what the monarchy should be. His personality is more like her than his father." It was unlikely that "he would become a remote and emotionally distant figure" like the Prince of Wales.

Sources inside the Palace said last night that the Lord Chamberlain's Office would still have responsibility for vetting commercial requests to market memorabilia, as the Princess was still regarded "as being part of the current Royal Family".

"The advice to companies who wish to market Diana memorabilia will be to contact the office to seek guidelines as to what is appropriate," the source said.

But the office admits that it may not be able to control widespread commercial exploitation of the Princess's memory. There will be public pressure for her to be remembered with a permanent memorial and for her charitable work to be continued in areas that other Royals have shied away from.

Although the office can take out injunctions against inappropriate merchandising, a source said that usually "gentle persuasion works".



The Rev David MacPherson and Betty Andrews

London must take place of honour

Marcus Binney, architecture correspondent, proposes a simple public memorial

A MEMORIAL to Diana, Princess of Wales, must be simple and understated. Any large or grandiose memorial, whether architectural or sculptural, would be in conflict with everything she stood for, as well as her own quintessential beauty and grace.

Nonetheless, there must clearly be a place, in the centre of the capital, where the millions who will remember her can come to pay their respects, lay flowers and pause for a few quiet moments. Though she is to be buried near Althorp, it was in London, more than the country, that she felt most at home.

It could be inside a great building, such as St Paul's Cathedral, but it would be preferable for it to stand

alone in a public space where people naturally congregate. Simple though it may be, there must be enough room for substantial numbers of people to gather, hold formal tributes and wait in quiet dignity.

The design must be approached in the same way as was the design of the Cenotaph, the most successful and honoured of all British memorials. The Princess's memorial must be supremely graceful, in line but not over-lavish materials, with a minimum of exquisite carving, and perhaps a portrait medallion. The short, main inscription must be capable of "ringing the world" like

the words Kipling composed for the memorials to the Great War.

There will be calls for a competition for designs, but competitions in such circumstances could easily turn into a dispute from which no consensus ever arose. Another way to choose a designer — it could be an architect or a sculptor — would be to ask six or 12 leading practitioners to submit designs which could be put on exhibition to allow the public to voice a preference. The best way, though it requires courage, would be to select a designer at the earliest possible stage, and give him or her a key role in selecting the site as well

as working on the design, which could be presented to the public at a number of stages and evolved according to the response.

The aim must be to achieve a memorial, at reasonable but not great expense, that would strike in all of us the reaction of J.M. Barrie to the newly completed Cenotaph in 1919. He wrote: "My dear Lutyens, the Cenotaph grows in beauty as one strolls down alone at night to look at it, which becomes my habit. I stand cogitating why and how it is so noble a thing. It is how the war has moved you."

High on a shortlist of architects

with the capacity to put infinite pains into refining a simple, well-wrought memorial would be Sir Norman Foster or Sir Michael Hopkins. The Czech-born Eva Jiricna has a well-deserved reputation for imaginative use of fine materials. Among rising stars, Chris Wilkinson has the finest sense of graceful line and silhouette. But the Princess was young and a patron of young designers; it may be best that a memorial is designed outside the architectural profession altogether.

The principal memorial should be a charitable foundation, operating

internationally, which could perpetuate her crusading work in the fields she most cared about — the victims of poverty, war and disease, particularly children. The foundation should bear her name. There should be an immediate munificent donation from the National Lottery and the public should be allowed to contribute.

The foundation must have as a continuing priority the mission to respond rapidly and generously to new emergencies, placing an emphasis on compassionate care. Without question, a foundation in her name would quickly accumulate funds to place it alongside the best endowed, most respected and effective foundations in the world.

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PRINCESS: THE POLITICAL RESPONSE



Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, in Singapore after his four-nation tour of South-East Asia. He has not been recalled immediately

Scots devolution poll to go ahead despite truce

Campaigners for both sides must make up for lost time, says Shirley English

THE referendum on Scottish devolution will go ahead as planned on Thursday September 11, leaving campaigners just four days to get their message across after the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Labour, the Liberal Democrats and the Scottish Nationalists will today meet Scotland FORWARD, the pro-devolution umbrella group, to discuss how to regain momentum in the final 96 hours.

The anti-devolution Think Twice group has cancelled all newspaper advertising planned for this week, which would have taken its campaign into top gear ready for the final push.

Some low key leafleting may still continue but all other ministerial and campaigning events, including high profile visits by William Hague, the Conservative leader, and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor,

have been cancelled out of respect.

Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for Linlithgow who is personally opposed to devolution, yesterday criticised the Government's decision not to postpone the referendum claiming it would leave many issues undiscussed and the public "bewildered" about what they would be voting for.

"Before the tragic death of Diana, there was great unease among many Scots about not fully being told about the implications of the proposals on which they are to make a decision," he said.

"The situation is, in fact, that decisions of huge importance, not only for Scotland but England, too, will now be made on the basis of a few TV broadcasts next week."

Mr Dalyell is due to take part in a debate with Donald Dewar, Scottish Secretary, broadcast on STV on Monday



Tam Dalyell: said vote should be postponed

and the BBC have a Panorama debate planned for the eve of the vote.

Pro-devolution campaigners dismissed Mr Dalyell, as "a lone voice in the political wilderness." Major events for the yes campaign are now likely to take place largely under the Scotland FORWARD banner with individual parties

concentrating on mobilising their own supporters.

Paolo Vestrì, national organiser for Scotland FORWARD, rejected suggestions that Royalist emotions stirred by the Princess's funeral might have an adverse effect on the yes vote. "What is being proposed is a Parliament within the UK, which will preserve the unity of the UK and the Royal Family's position within it," he said.

Sources in the pro-devolution camp admitted that the loss of a full week of campaigning at such a crucial stage could depress turnout. The suspension of political activity will be felt on both sides, although voter apathy is likely to be more advantageous to no campaigners.

Scotland yesterday continued to pay its respects to the "People's Princess." A carpet of flowers and teddy bears grew around the gates of the Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh and queues formed at the City Chambers as locals and tourists waited to sign a book of condolence.

Self-rule enthusiasm is fading

By Shirley English

AN OPINION poll published today has revealed a serious slip in support for a Scottish parliament with tax varying powers. The latest System Three Poll for *The Herald*, in Glasgow, could not have come at a worse time for the Government with campaigning for a double yes vote suspended. There are nine days to go until the referendum.

According to the poll those voting for tax varying powers are now outnumbered by the "no's" and "don't knows." Support for the other question — do Scots want a Scottish parliament? — has also fallen.

Tories suspend all political activity

By James Landale
Political Reporter

THE Conservative Party in effect closed for business yesterday until after the funeral of the Princess.

Extending the initial decision by most parties to suspend campaigning for the Scottish and Welsh devolution referendums, the Tories also ceased all other political activity.

William Hague, the Tory leader, who signed the book of condolence at St James's Palace yesterday, had

planned this week to begin the first stage of a month-long tour of the country to talk to party activists and voters, but decided to cancel any trips until after the funeral. After talks with advisers, he also postponed a two-day policy brainstorming session with his Shadow Cabinet, due to begin today at a hotel in the West Country.

In a memorandum to all party officers, Mr Hague ordered Tory organisations to cease any activity bar their essential administrative duties. Any campaigning for local council by-

elections will stop, no fund-raising will take place and no public meetings will be held on Tory premises. "In this period, politicians of all parties should come together and reflect the national mood of unity and contemplation," Mr Hague said.

The Labour Party has suspended all campaigning over devolution, but has not issued any blanket ban on political activity. An official said that the party was taking decisions one day at a time but that no substantial visits would be made. He added that many local party

officials had called in to say they were voluntarily suspending any political activity until after the funeral.

Both sides of the Scottish and Welsh devolution debate yesterday confirmed that campaigning would remain suspended until Monday. The move was criticised by Norris McWhirter, chairman of the Freedom Association, who said the political parties were abdicating their responsibility to the voters. "As it stands the Scottish people appear to be given just four days to consider the fate of the United Kingdom."

Blair instrumental in 'people's funeral' plan

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR decided within hours of learning of the death of the Princess that the public would expect a funeral at which they could express their deep affection for her.

And when in his tribute to the Princess outside church in his Sedgefield constituency on Sunday he called her the "People's Princess", he and aides were already considering how the funeral could best reflect that.

They were delighted to learn, from their first contacts with Royal officials, that Buckingham Palace was thinking along the same lines.

Both the Government and the Palace are satisfied that under the arrangements announced yesterday and to be unveiled over the next few days the Princess will have a "people's funeral".

Mr Blair spent a long time preparing the statement in which he spoke of the Princess touching the lives of so many throughout the world with joy and comfort. Throughout Sunday and

yesterday, Downing Street observed the official protocol that the funeral arrangements were a matter primarily for the Palace and the Princess's family. But there was no attempt to disguise the deep involvement of Mr Blair and his closest advisers in the discussions.

Downing Street has always made a practice of never revealing the content of its dealings with the Palace. But that has not applied on this occasion and officials have given indications of the advice that the Prime Minister would have offered on behalf of the Government.

Mr Blair was clear that there had to be a state "occasion" or "event" to mark the passing of one of the world's best-known and most popular women. But he also felt that the funeral should cater for the ordinary people and good causes to which the Princess gave her support. The Palace was of the same mind and Mr Blair's most senior officials, including Jonathan Powell,

his chief of staff, and Alastair Campbell, his press secretary, have had regular meetings with Palace counterparts to work on the funeral plans.

When the Palace announced the funeral plans yesterday, Downing Street described them as the "right outcome". A leading aide of Mr Blair said: "This is a major national event in which the whole country wants to feel involved."

Officials were swift to emphasise that both the Palace and the Princess's family had been of a similar view. "The Palace was clear from the outset that this would not be a 'great and the good' funeral," the aide added. "Everybody is thinking along the same lines."

The Princess will therefore be given a funeral that will virtually have the status of a state funeral but without a lying in state, at the request of the Spencer family, and some of the pomp that goes with such an event. "It is a unique event for a unique person," a senior official said.



Blair on Sunday: gave an emotional speech

Editors in talks to curb the paparazzi

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The Grand in Clapham, South London, which Vanessa Redgrave and her brother, Corin, are trying to preserve, and part of the auditorium, which held 3,000 when the theatre was built in 1900

Redgraves fight to stop theatre turning into a pub

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

VANESSA REDGRAVE is heading a campaign to save a theatre that flourished in the heyday of music hall.

The actress, whose latest film, *Wild*, is being shown at the Venice Film Festival, is fighting plans to convert the Grand in Clapham, South London, into a

pub. She said she was inspired by the ideals of Lilian Baylis, who founded the Old Vic "to produce the classics, performed by the greatest actors of her day, at prices within reach of the poorest families in South London".

The Grand, a red-brick and stone theatre built in 1900, drew the greatest music-hall artists of the day. Dan Leno opened "The Palace of Varieties" in an audi-

ence of 3,000. The halls mushroomed across the country but the Clapham Grand is one of the few survivors in the suburbs.

Miss Redgrave is fighting for the theatre with her actor-brother, Corin, who said yesterday: "It would be a loss, not only to us, but to the wider community. There are plenty of pubs and wine bars and restaurants. There is a great shortage of theatres of this size."

The two Redgraves have long been seeking a permanent home for Moving Theatre, the company they founded in 1993 to "reflect the contradictions and problems of the times we live in".

They hope to stage performances that will aim at the highest standards. "We shall especially look to commission new Afro-Caribbean and Asian writers and our theatre will provide a training

for 30 to 40 student performers, writers and directors."

Nearly all of the building's period features, including Chinese-inspired dragons, have survived. Mr Redgrave said: "By chance, I was looking through letters of my grandfather, who was an actor, in which he wrote to my grandmother about playing at the Clapham Grand." The letters did not specify more than that he

was appearing in a melodrama which he had written himself, but the discovery gave the theatre an added magic for the Redgraves.

The owners, the J.D. Wetherpoon pub chain, are appealing against a decision by Wandsworth council earlier this year to reject planning permission for a theme pub. A public hearing is to be held on September 23. If the theatre were sold, it would fetch

between £500,000 and £1 million. Since its heyday as a music hall, it has been used as a cinema, bingo-hall and a venue for pop and rock concerts.

Peter Longman, of the Theatres Trust, said: "This is a unique theatre. This is one case we have simply got to win. It would be absolutely tragic if it was turned into a pub. The locals don't want that. We shall fight it all the way."

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Critics call for official register of nannies

Unofficial lists give false sense of security, writes Alexandra Freen

CHILDCARE campaigners yesterday called on the Government to establish a compulsory register of nannies amid reports that private companies are charging nannies up to £100 to join unregulated registers.

The Professional Association of Nursery Nurses said that it had been approached by at least six nanny agencies that were launching private registers. These would be run commercially but would not be vetted by the Department of Health or the Department for Education and Employment, and would not have access to police records.

Tricia Pritchard, the association's professional officer, said that parents might think that privately run registers offered some sort of statutory protection against rogue nannies; in reality they would offer little more than the inclusion of a nanny's name and address on a database. Improperly supervised, a private nanny register that did not have access to police records could be "a paedophile's dream", Ms Pritchard said.

"We would question the value of several registers, none of which will have the power to prevent a nanny from working should she or he be identified as unsuitable," she said. She added that at least one of the agencies was planning to charge nannies more than £100 to join its register.

The pressure group Playpen, which has been campaigning for a national independent, non-profit-making register since the arrest in the US earlier this year of the British nanny Louise Woodward on a child murder charge, said it was inappropriate for any nanny register to be run in pursuit of profit. Rosemary Rogers of the

group said: "Until the Government realises that 'natural competition' within the childcare industry results in children being put at risk each day, the route will be clear for more private enterprises."

The representatives from PANN and Playpen were speaking after the launch yesterday of The Worldwide Nanny Register Ltd, a private company linked to the Guardian Angels childcare consultancy in Hertford. The company will charge nannies £45 plus VAT to register with them and will pass their details to potential employers for £40 plus VAT.

Nannies will not have to be qualified to enter their names on the register but they will have to prove that they have at least two years' experience working with children. They will also be required to present the company with evidence that they do not have a criminal record.

Angela Spencer, director of the Worldwide Nanny Register, said the company would check all references given by nannies going back to the age of 16. "We are hoping to get government approval for our national nanny register and we hope it will become compulsory," she said.

The Worldwide Nanny Register is launching into an expanding market. The proportion of women returning to work after giving birth has risen from a half to two thirds since 1988 and the demand for nannies is increasing rapidly.

Yet while child-minders have to be vetted by local authorities and registered with social services, there is virtually no regulation of nannies or of nanny agencies. In January 1995 the Government deregulated nanny agencies, arguing that the relationship between nanny and employer was a private one.

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Dead firewoman's father attacks jail sentence on store arsonist



Temperatures in the supermarket fire were estimated at more than 1,000 C

Simon de Bruxelles and Peter Foster report on a call for psychiatric treatment and public protection

The father of a woman firefighter who died in a supermarket blaze yesterday attacked the jail sentence on the security guard who started the fire. Roger Lombard said that the culprit needed psychiatric help and a longer term in prison while he was treated.

Martin Cody, 21, set fire to a Bristol supermarket during his first night shift for the company. Fleur Lombard, also 21, was engulfed by a fireball as she searched for shoppers. She was the first British woman firefighter to die in peace-time service.

Cody was jailed for 7½ years for manslaughter and arson yesterday at the Royal Courts of Justice in London. Psychiatric reports said that he was not mentally ill but was suffering emotional conflict at the time of the arson. Mr Justice Tuckey said that he would not take the grave step of jailing Cody for life because he had not intended to kill and would not be a danger to the public in the long term.

Mr Lombard, 53, a businessman, was not in court for the sentencing. But he said afterwards: "I am concerned that the guy gets the help he so badly needs. Putting him away for this length of time is not going to solve the problem. I am disappointed with the sentence because we remain convinced that he has some sort of serious psychotic problem, despite the fact that the psychiatrist has been unable to confirm that."

The length of sentence is rather less than one might like. They are not able to make it a life sentence unless the psychiatrist said he had a problem. But the evidence is



Cody: punched the air when the blaze began

that he has got a problem and he does have a history of fascination with fire."

He condemned Cody's barrister for lodging an appeal against the conviction. "If Cody gets out and he does it again, I will make it a personal vendetta to go after his defence counsel," Mr Lombard said. "I will hold him personally responsible."

"I feel very angry. I am unable to understand his defence counsel. He operates on a separate level from the rest of humanity. I hope that his family doesn't have to go through the trauma we have had to go through."

"When Cody gets out, he represents a threat to society. They claim it is a maturity-related behavioural problem rather than some sort of psychotic behaviour."

At Cody's trial in June, Exeter Crown Court was told that he had told staff that he was bored and wished something exciting would happen.

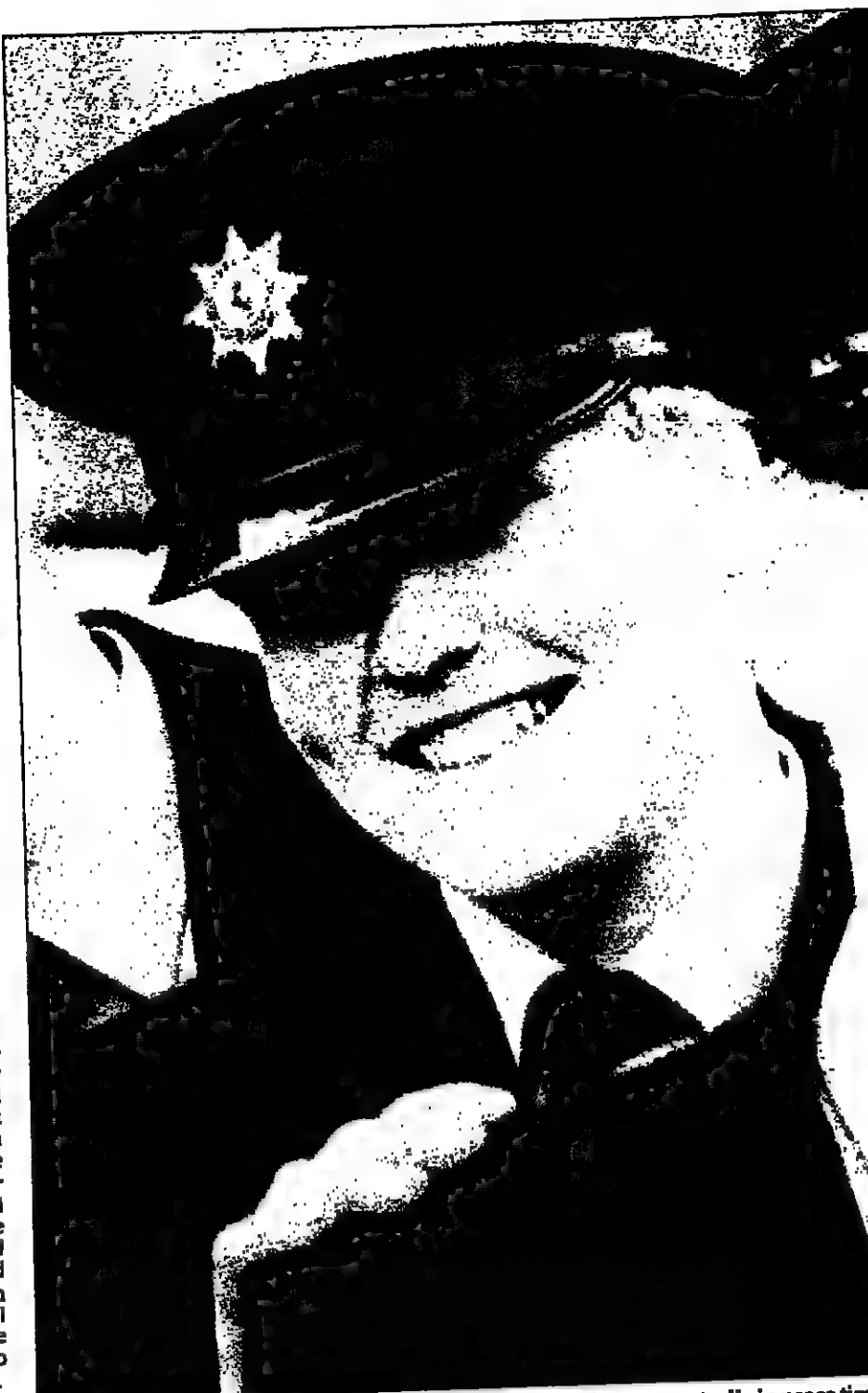
An hour later smoke and flames engulfed the store, starting in the meat-preparation room, where Cody had kindled the flames using packing materials. The jury was told that Cody, from Bristol, lived in a fantasy world.

David Spens, QC, for the defence, said that Cody was still very young, had no history of fire-starting or any other criminal behaviour and had never intended to hurt anyone. He said that although the jury heard evidence that he was seen punching the air with his clenched fist and shouting "yes" after the fire started, Cody's behaviour had changed as soon as he realised that a firefighter had been injured. "Once the dreadful news reached him, he became solemn and there was no exhilaration," Mr Spens said.

Mr Justice Tuckey said that Cody had been worried about his job prospects and his parents' disapproval of his girlfriend, who had recently suffered a miscarriage and had been in grave danger of suffering another at the time of the fire.

One psychiatric report had been unable to identify the reasons for Cody's behaviour or to comment on his future risk, while the other had speculated that he may have been driven by emotional conflict.

"I take the view that, having regard to your age, it is less likely with the passage of time that you will be driven by emotional conflict into the sort of behaviour that I am concerned with," the judge said. "But if you are, you will be more able to resist it, the older you become," Cody acknowledged.



Fleur Lombard, best recruit of her intake, was the first firewoman to die in peace time

edged members of his family sitting in the gallery with a smile and a nod as he entered the dock but showed no emotion as sentence was passed and he was led away by security staff to begin his jail term.

Miss Lombard had just completed her two-year probationary period with Avon Fire Brigade and joined blue watch at Speedwell fire station, a few minutes away from the store.

The temperatures in the fire, estimated at more than 1,000 C, seared off her protective clothing and breathing apparatus. Other firefighters tried in vain to save their colleague, who had been awarded a Silver Axe as the best recruit of her intake. Mr Lombard said that his daughter

ter knew the risks and would have been embarrassed at "all the fuss" surrounding her death. He said: "She would have thought the whole thing that happened to her was totally bizarre. Fleur wouldn't have wanted all the fuss. She

would have said that if she had come out of that building, it would have been just another routine 'smokey'. We have come to realise that there is such a fine line between that and not coming out. But she knew that, too."

Mother killed handicapped daughter in bed, jury told

BY RICHARD DUCE

THE mother of a severely handicapped daughter killed her by disconnecting life-support equipment as she lay in a hospital bed, a court was told yesterday.

Julie Watts, 31, a state enrolled psychiatric nurse, removed a breathing tube keeping her 14-month-old daughter Abigail alive, it was alleged. Peter Openshaw, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury at Manchester Crown Court that it was a case of "great sadness".

Abigail was born to Mrs Watts and her husband, Andrew, with "formidable" handicaps including brain damage and a rare skull deformity. Soon after birth she was resuscitated when she had a heart attack.

"Rightly or wrongly, her parents believed the doctors then responsible for Abigail were giving them the option, even then at the beginning, of not resuscitating her should there be another cardiac arrest," Mr Openshaw said.

"It was, however, their clear wish every effort should be made to help Abigail at that stage and thereafter, and it was," in July, 1995, while Abigail was being treated at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, nurses heard Mrs Watts shout for help. A tracheotomy tube had been removed from Abigail's throat and the tapes that secured it had been untied. "As a direct and inevitable result Abigail, being left in this condition, suffered respiratory failure leading to cardiac arrest which in turn caused brain damage from which she died," Mr Openshaw said.

"It is the case of the prosecution that an examination of all the circumstances will drive you to the conclusion that the defendant herself must deliberately and unlawfully have removed the tube from Abigail's throat and untied the securing tapes. If you so find she will be guilty of either murder or manslaughter."

Mrs Watts, from Little

Hulton, Salford, Greater Manchester, denies Abigail's murder. Mr Openshaw said it was Mrs Watts' case that she had not removed the tube and that it might have been dislodged accidentally by the child's movements.

"The defendant might accept she untied the tapes but it is her case she didn't do so in order to remove the tube but did so, or must have done so, in her desperation to resuscitate the child after she found her in this collapsed condition," he said.

Abigail suffered from a rare combination of symptoms that made it impossible to identify precisely the syndrome from which she suffered. She had a deformity known as a cloverleaf skull, which had needed an operation to correct the features of her head, face and brain.

She also suffered water on the brain and had to be fitted with a "shunt" to drain the liquid into her abdomen. The child could not breathe properly, which was why she was fitted with a tracheotomy tube.

Abigail was also unable to swallow or eat properly and had to be fed through another tube into her abdomen and she lacked normal strength and co-ordination. She could wriggle about but not sit up, her sight and hearing were impaired and she needed constant nursing care throughout the day and night.

Mr Openshaw said within a few minutes of the tube being removed she would have suffered respiratory failure, leading to heart failure and brain damage with the "direct and inevitable" consequences of death. "The defendant would have known the dangers."

Mrs Watts and her husband had been married since 1988. Their first child, Philip, now eight, was normal and healthy. Since Abigail's death another daughter had been born to them on December 27 last year who was also normal and healthy.

The trial continues.

Repeat rapist jailed for life

A MAN released after serving six years of a ten-year sentence for kidnapping and raping a 20-year-old student in 1988 was yesterday sent to prison for life for an almost identical offence.

In May, Neil Sinkinson forced a 25-year-old York University philosophy student into his car at gunpoint, handcuffed her, stripped her and raped her. Teesside Crown Court was told that he had put his hands round his victim's neck and told her: "This is what it's like to die."

Tim Roberts, for the prosecution, said that 30 minutes before the attack, Sinkinson, 32, had tried to force another 20-year-old woman into his car at gunpoint 200 yards from police headquarters but she had screamed at the top of her voice and he had run off.

Sinkinson pleaded guilty to abduction and rape, also to robbing three other women students and an attempted abduction. Mr Roberts said: "He fantasised about what he would do to them. He was disposed to driving around with a gun, flickknife and handcuffs."

Peter Johnson, for Sinkinson, said: "He accepts he is a danger to young women. He deluded himself into thinking he was a robber, not a rapist. Jailing Sinkinson with a recommendation he should not be considered for parole for less than 13 years, Judge David Bryant said the rape was "terrifying and horrific" and he believed Sinkinson was extremely dangerous and could easily progress to murder.



"Kanga" Tryon

Divorce for Lord Tryon

LADY TRYON, one of the Prince of Wales's closest friends, was divorced by her husband yesterday.

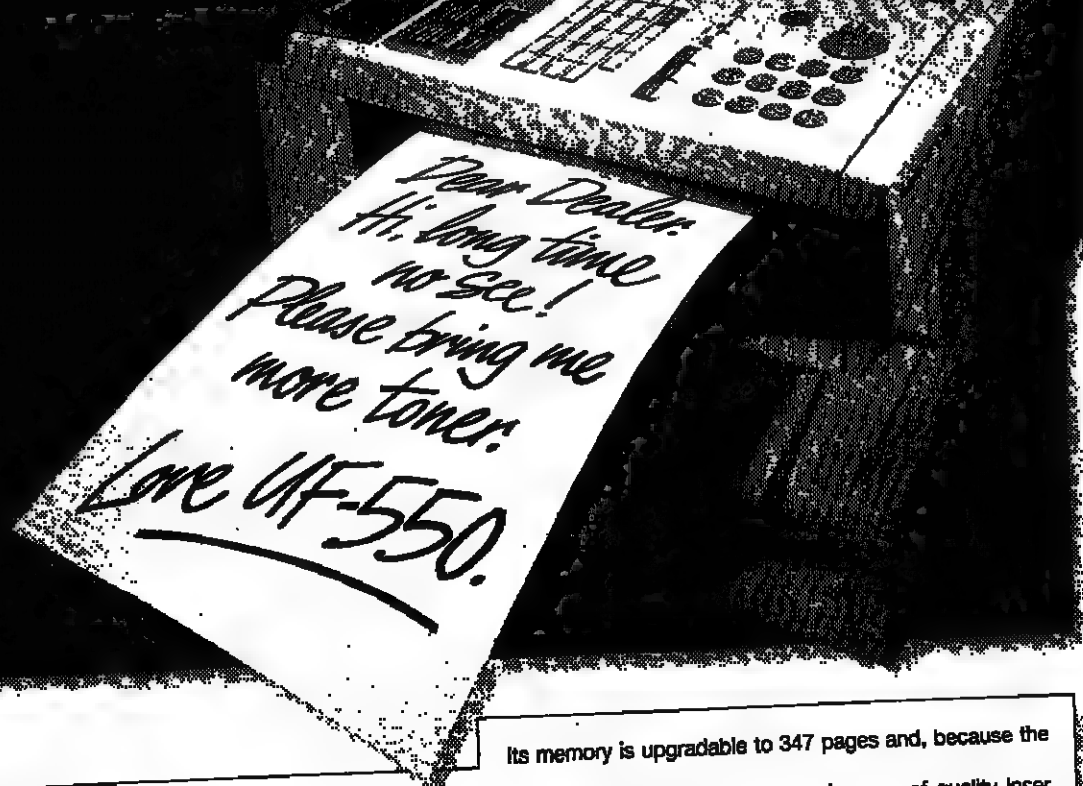
Lord Tryon, of Great Dorsetford, Wiltshire, said in his petition that she had caused him "stress-related illness" and that she was still acting unreasonably. The divorce was uncontested.

Lady "Kanga" Tryon, 49, has been recovering from a breakdown after treatment for a fall at a private clinic that left her paralysed from the waist down. She was detained under the Mental Health Act in June.

Lord Tryon, a merchant banker, applied to the High Court in July for an order barring her from her home, claiming that his wife had made allegations that someone was trying to kill her. Lady Tryon claimed at the time that her husband had had falsely accused her of being mad and an alcoholic.

The couple's 17-year-old twins, Edward and Victoria, will stay with their father.

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Channel ferry prices to be curbed

Ministers will set conditions on merger to avoid the risk of a cartel, report Arthur Leathley and Fraser Nelson

MINISTERS will this month demand limits to price rises on Channel ferries to prevent a cartel developing between ship and tunnel operators, Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, is to attach tough conditions to her long-awaited approval of the merger between P&O and Stena Line ferries.

Mrs Beckett will demand assurances that the new company will not exploit its dominant position in the fiercely competitive market. The merger of services on the Dover-Calais route would lead to a reduction in the number of ships from nine to six, with savings of some £75million. There will also be reductions on the Dover to Zeebrugge and Newhaven to Dieppe routes.

Ministers fear that the new com-

pany, which will have 40 per cent of the tourist vehicle market, could drive up prices after the abolition, in 1999, of the lucrative duty-free business, which has helped to subsidise fares.

Although the Government refuses to divulge details of the plan, an inflation-linked formula is being prepared that would protect customers while allowing the new company to remain viable. Senior managers from the two companies will meet the Office of Fair Trading next week to discuss conditions.

Among other measures to be laid down are that the company surrenders some berthing slots and ticketing booths in Dover and Calais. It will also have to operate independently of its parent companies' other

operations to Ireland and The Netherlands.

"The evidence is that the market will grow rather than contract in the coming years and this is the chance to protect the public," one Whitehall official said. Officials have backed away from imposing a formal system of regulation on the industry.

However, the imposition of price restrictions in an unregulated private sector would mark a significant intervention and Mrs Beckett is likely to need the go-ahead from Tony Blair. The limits to be discussed between the OFT and companies will focus on brochure prices, although many fares are heavily discounted.

The brochure price for a peak-time return car journey is listed at £169 by both P&O and Le Shuttle. Mrs

Beckett is concerned that the market does not fall prey to a cartel at the turn of the century.

Ferry fares have fallen by more than 20 per cent in the past five years but consumer groups insist that the fall was from a level that made Channel journeys among the most expensive in the world, mile-for-mile. Ferry firms say that prices are actually lower than 20 years ago, even without taking inflation into account.

The move was welcomed last night by the Road Haulage Association, which has pressed for regulation of the ferry industry as a condition for approval. A spokesman said: "We have been pushing for some time for an element of price protection. Recent falls in Channel fares have

given a competitive boost to the British haulage sector, as well as benefiting the holidaymaker. This would be a great summer bonus to all ferry passengers."

Mrs Beckett was expected to make a decision on the merger early in the summer but officials say that the complexity of setting workable conditions has delayed the process. The European Commission, which also has to approve the merger, has voiced concerns about the risk of a duopoly between the ferry operator and Eurotunnel.

One leading analyst said: "I don't think P&O and Stena would see a price cap as a problem. They intend to make more profit by keeping the costs down, which they will be able to do by merging their businesses."

Tax lawyers join QCs' 14-strong £1m-a-year club

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FOUR Queen's Counsel specialising in tax law are among the list of 14 barristers reputed to be earning £1 million a year.

A survey in the new *Guide to the Legal Profession* names those barristers who are said by colleagues and solicitors to be reaping the richest pickings. The four tax silks are Andrew Park and David Goldberg of Gray's Inn Chambers, John Gardiner of 11 New Square, and Graham Aaronson of 1 Essex Court. All the others save one, the libel

lawyer George Carman, QC, are at the commercial Bar. They are: Michael Beloff, QC, Michael Burton, QC, Christopher Carr, QC, Christopher Clarke, QC, Elizabeth Gloster, QC, Anthony Grabner, QC, Gordon Pollock, QC, Peter Scott, QC and Jonathan Sumption, QC.

The guide — its research methods have been audited by the British Market Research Bureau — points out that the "headline figure" of £1 million a year represents gross earnings and should be reduced by

about 20 per cent for overheads such as chambers rent and other expenses. The figures also are based on last year's estimated earnings and may be a "one off".

Reena SenGupta, the guide's editor, said: "It is easy to get overexcited about these earnings but they do fluctuate from year to year. A silk like Michael Beloff, now president of Trinity College, Oxford, may be earning half that now."

She said that usually such earnings stemmed from one or two "very big cases which involved immense hard work: one must also remember that we are talking about a handful of barristers from the total [8,000 in private practice], with the majority of earnings much, much less than these figures".

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, recently infuriated the profession by criticising the "fat cat earnings" of some top silks. Similar tables of lawyers' earnings have suggested that the millionaire club had a membership of ten. But Mr SenGupta said that compared with some top earners in banking or industry, the Bar's "fat cats" did not deserve the name. "These earnings are nothing compared to what young, relatively experienced traders can earn, and we are talking about the very brightest of the profession."

Nor are the top earnings confined to specialists in arcane or dry areas of law. The survey, published by Chambers & Partners, also includes a league table of the barristers' barristers. It says many still practise in a variety of fields, defying the trend towards specialism. Based on recommendations by solicitors, the guide lists the top ten stars at

the Bar, that is, those QCs who are rated the best in several fields of law.

Top of the list by a long way is Mr Pollock, from Essex Court Chambers, who is nominated in ten fields of law: administrative and public law, arbitration, banking, commercial, employment, energy, insurance and reinsurance, media and entertainment, shipping and sports.

His closest rival, and with Mr Pollock in the millionaire bracket, is Mr Sumption, who

is cited for expertise in seven fields: administrative and public law, banking, commercial, financial services, insurance and reinsurance, media and entertainment, and professional negligence.

Other top all-rounders in the list include: Ian Glick, QC, Ms Gloster, Jeffrey Gruber, QC, and Andrew Smith, QC. Ms Gloster, who with Mr Glick and Mr Gruber, is from One Essex Court, was ranked as top expert in six lists of work: commercial, commercial chancery, company, finan-

cial services, insolvency and professional negligence. She was called to the Bar in 1971 after studying at Cambridge and is a member of both Inner Temple and Lincoln's Inn.

The new directory, published today, is the most detailed consumer guide to the legal profession's experts, whether in small firms or large, solicitors or barristers, and is based on some 4,000 interviews and broken down by region.

City's best, page 41



Gordon Pollock, left, and Andrew Park



Graham Aaronson, left, and Christopher Carr



Elizabeth Gloster, who was named in the survey as top expert in six fields of work

Trimble consults prelate on Sinn Fein talks

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

DAVID TRIMBLE, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, held an unprecedented meeting yesterday with Archbishop Sean Brady, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland. The two men declined to comment afterwards as part of the reduction of political activity during mourning for Diana, Princess of Wales.

The meeting at the archbishop's Armagh residence was part of Mr Trimble's widespread consultations on whether the UUP should negotiate with Sinn Fein at the multiparty

peace talks beginning on September 15. While Archbishop Brady unquestionably argued that it should, Mr Trimble will this afternoon meet the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the rival Democratic Unionist Party, who will forcefully tell him the opposite. The DUP has already announced that it will boycott the talks.

Most observers believe Mr Trimble is inclined to engage Sinn Fein, either directly or by proxy, because walking away would provoke international condemnation and let the Unionist case go by default. Much further down the road lies the tantalising prospect of real

power and having Sinn Fein implicitly acknowledge the Union's legitimacy by accepting a devolved assembly. "I think he's doing everything in his power to attend," Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said. But Mr Trimble will be aware of how his party ditched Brian Faulkner, the last Unionist leader who dared to deal with the enemy.

The UUP's national executive was to have made a decision on Saturday but that meeting has been postponed to September 13 — two days before the talks are due to start — to avoid coinciding with the Princess's funeral. With the UUP and the

Unionist movement split on the issue, Mr Trimble may welcome the extra time. Archbishop Brady paid tribute to the Princess, saying that "we will remember her great work for so many people, so graciously and generously given, and I think that will continue to inspire many people in these dark days of grief". Mr Trimble predicted "a lot of really hard thinking about the circumstances which led to her death, and the way in which she was honoured at the end".

Queues formed outside Belfast City Hall yesterday after Alban Magin-

ness, the Catholic Mayor, opened a book of condolence and many people left flowers. Similar books were opened in towns across Northern Ireland, which the Princess had visited nine times, most memorably to comfort relatives of those who died in the Enniskillen Remembrance Day bombing in 1987.

A minute's silence was observed at a concert for Admiral William Crowe, the departing United States Ambassador to Britain, given by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in Belfast on Sunday night. The programme was changed to more sombre music.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Protesters attempt to blockade arms fair

Hundreds of demonstrators tried to block the gates of Farnborough airfield in Hampshire yesterday and halt Britain's biggest annual arms fair. The protest was organised by the Campaign Against Arms Trade, which accused the Government of failing to keep pledges to have an ethical foreign policy. Protesters claim the Government has invited to the fair a number of countries with poor records on human rights, including Turkey, Indonesia, China and Saudi Arabia. Francesca D'Silva said: "The Government is breaking its election promises." A Whitehall official reiterated the government position that attendance at the fair did not mean a country would get a licence to export weapons.

Guilty of pigeon cruelty

An expert on birds of prey who used a pigeon to lure a hawk was convicted of cruelty at Jedburgh Sheriff Court. Leonard Durman-Walters, 57, of the Scottish Academy of Falconry, near Hawick, was admonished by Sheriff James Paterson, who said that causing terror to a pigeon did not rank very high in the scale of offences.

Shot student goes home

Charlotte Gibb, 20, right, the Durham University student shot in the face in Israel last month, has been discharged from Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge and is recovering at home in Deeping St James, Lincolnshire. Surgeons had treated her for a injuries to her jaw. Her boyfriend, Max Hunter, 22, died beside her after being gunned down on a backpacking holiday. She was shot three times. A former Israeli army officer has been charged with the shootings.



Patio murder denied

A man whose missing wife was found buried under their garden patio denied her murder yesterday. The prosecution at Winchester Crown Court said that Philip Dale, 43, from Rowner, Hampshire, admitted grabbing Catherine, 42, by the neck in a row but had said that he did not intend to kill her.

Dog searches for body

A police sniffer dog, one of only seven in Britain trained to detect the gas rising from bodies underwater, searched a lake for Sandie Bowen, 53, a mother of two who went missing from her home in Llandogo, Monmouthshire, nearly a month ago. Her husband, Michael, 45, a forestry worker, has been charged with murder.

Oilfield bomb blown up

One of Britain's biggest oilfields, the Nelson field 100 miles northeast of Aberdeen, resumed production after the destruction of a wartime bomb. The 300lb German bomb, discovered 10ft from the main pipeline in July, was dragged clear and blown up. The shutdown is estimated to have delayed production worth up to £4.5 million.

Lead may damage teeth

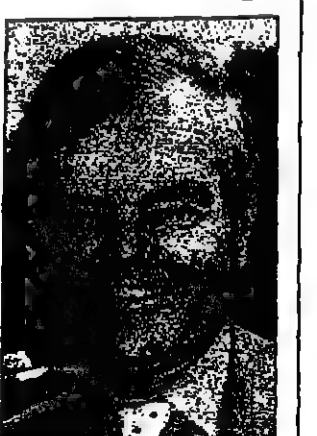
Children whose mothers were exposed to high levels of lead are at greater risk of tooth cavities, American scientists say. They believe that lead may hinder the development of teeth and reduce the production of acid-neutralising saliva. The study, in *Nature Medicine*, found that rats born of mothers exposed to lead had up to 40 per cent more cavities.

'Raise taxes to cut crime'

Seventy per cent of people would accept a tax rise of 1p to 4p if "significant" cuts in crime would result, a survey says. Nearly 50 per cent consider drugs and drug-related offences to be the biggest crime problem, far ahead of burglary and assault, according to the survey of more than 2,000 people for NatWest Insurance Services and Crime Concern.

Clark accused over dog

Alan Clark, the former Defence Minister, right, will appear before magistrates on October 31 accused of owning a dangerous dog. The 69-year-old Tory MP for Kensington and Chelsea, who returned to Parliament in the general election, did not appear at a brief hearing in Folkestone yesterday in connection with the incident at his home, Saltwood Castle, in Kent, on January 24 in which his rottweiler allegedly bit Peter Powell, a BBC cameraman.



Street man to run BBC1

BBC1's new Controller was named as Peter Salmon, Granada's director of programmes, who has previously worked for the BBC and Channel 4. Mr Salmon, 41, from Manchester, was responsible for introducing harder storylines into Granada's *Coronation Street* after it lost ground to the BBC's *EastEnders*.

Code to crack rustling

The Royal Mail is urging farmers to print their postcodes on livestock and machinery to beat thieves. Theft of cattle and pigs are costing £22 million a year. A spokesman for the National Farmers Union said: "A horse from a North-East farm was returned to the owners after the postcode was discovered on its hoof."

Register begins for sex offenders

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MEASURES to enable police to track the movements of convicted sex attackers came into force yesterday. Rapists and child-sex offenders will have to register their names and addresses with the police and inform them if they move.

Any offender failing to register with the police could face up to six months in jail and a fine of £5,000. Yesterday probation officers supervising sex offenders began contacting them to tell them to notify the police within the next 14 days or risk prosecution.

Alun Michael, a Home Office Minister, said: "Paedophiles devastate the lives of children, bring misery to their parents and can create

fear throughout local communities. The Government shares the concern of parents to protect their children."

Offenders currently supervised by the probation service and those leaving jail will have to register. An estimated 6,000 are expected to be on the register by September 14, with an additional 3,500 added each year. The Act is not retrospective, so most of the 110,000 convicted paedophiles in England and Wales will not be on the list.

Under Home Office guidelines, only exceptional circumstances would allow the police to issue warnings when a convicted sex offender moves into a neighbourhood.

Primary schools buck the trend

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN in well-off neighbourhoods are 20 times more likely than those in low-cost housing to attend a primary school at the top of the league table, according to research published yesterday. However, two schools among the top 20 primary schools in last summer's tests for 11-year-olds bucked the trend.

St Michael's, Bamford, in Rochdale, which came twelfth in the country, took just 3 per cent of pupils from the most affluent housing areas and 39 per cent from council accommodation. Crookham Hill Primary, in Kent, came third nationally, with one third of pupils not drawn from the affluent suburbs or gentrified villages

that dominated the table. Experian, the information services company that carried out the survey, suggested that social factors should be taken into account more by school inspectors and in league tables. Ofsted, however, said it already used socio-economic data to compare schools.

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Foulkes pledges start of new era in Montserrat

GEORGE FOULKES, the International Development Minister, accepting government mistakes over its handling of Montserrat, yesterday pledged unequivocal commitment for a new start in the tiny British colony.

In a clear effort at fence-mending during his two-day visit to Montserrat, Mr Foulkes, whose predictions of a cataclysmic eruption by the island's active volcano sparked panic evacuations last month, said that Whitehall and the local government had entered a new era of co-operation.

"We are accepting that there have been some misunderstandings and mistakes across the airwaves and in newspaper columns in the past," the minister said.

"But now it is a new start and we are looking to the future and making an unequivocal commitment to both the people and the island of Montserrat."

Mr Foulkes said that he was looking at immediate needs such as housing, roads, upgrading the hospital and creating employment for the 5,000 islanders who have remained on Montserrat since the Soufriere Hills volcano erupted for the first time in four centuries of undisturbed slumber two years ago.

During his first hours on the island, however, the minister gave no hint of whether further funds might be made available to the beleaguered British outpost in the Caribbean. "We want to ensure the viability of the safe area in the north so that the people of Montserrat can have real choices, given the constraints," he said. "Because the volcano and I think we should never forget that."

In a carefully choreographed tour of the island, Mr Foulkes visited the emergency centre, flew around the burning volcano crater and made a deliberate visit to the emergen-



Tom Rhodes reports on the attempt to mend fences among the Caribbean islanders living in the shadow of a volcano

cy jetty in Little Bay, first built under the former Government and completed after Tony Blair came to power in May.

HMS Liverpool, the West Indies guardship, provided a suitably symbolic backdrop before departing yesterday evening for Puerto Rico, its white ensign flying at half-mast in honour of Diana, Princess of Wales.

In the afternoon, Mr Foulkes, accompanied by Frank Savage, the British Governor, toured various shelters and other areas of Montserrat. He was expected to make a joint statement of intent with David Brandt, the Chief Minister, today.

Over lunch he was presented with plans for a new capital at Little Bay and Carr's Bay, a project designed by Landbase

International, a company based in London. The scheme including plans for businesses, hotels, a hospital and a Test standard cricket ground — requires an underwriting guarantee by Whitehall.

Mr Brandt, who has been critical of Mr Foulkes in the weeks since the minister's volcano remarks caused widespread panic, yesterday said that he welcomed the new signs of co-operation by London. "We do not want to fight with the British Government, we want to work as partners giving each other mutual respect," he said.

"But at this stage it is a step in the right direction and I will not give my final judgment until I see how the expression of intent made by the minister actually transforms the situation on the ground."

Mr Foulkes's comments of a terrible eruption causing the need for a complete evacuation were disputed by scientists last month.

The minister's aides said yesterday that he had read from a draft report stating that a "cataclysmic eruption" could not be ruled out. They attempted to blame civil servants for the gaffe.

Islanders are still smarting from subsequent comments made by Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, in which she said that local authorities were demanding too much money and would next be calling for "golden elephants".

So far, £30 million in government aid has been spent in Montserrat with another £11 million promised. Mr Foulkes rejected claims that the Government had been withholding the additional funds.



Foulkes remarks on volcano led to panic

Vatican to relax rules for 'trials' of suspected heretics

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Vatican has announced a relaxation in the rules governing the excommunication hearings of dissident theologians and priests who are judged to have violated orthodox church doctrine.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, formerly called the Holy Office, said that under new proposals to be approved by the Pope this autumn, the trials of alleged heretics would be conducted with "greater transparency". Cardinal Ratzinger has headed the Holy Office, which inherited the traditions, if not the methods, of the Holy Inquisition, for nearly 20 years. He has proved a stern guardian of orthodoxy, instilling fear in

all "dissidents" summoned to Rome to explain themselves. Under the new rules, accused priests and theologians will have increased rights of defence at Holy Office hearings. Instead of facing the inquisitor alone, they will have the right to bring a "trusted adviser" to the hearings, and their church superiors will be present throughout.

The move follows an outcry over Father Tissa Balasuriya, a Sri Lankan priest excommunicated earlier this year for his espousal of the cause of women priests. He refused to sign a profession of faith drawn up by Cardinal Ratzinger which included the assertion that since all the Apostles were men, there was no place for female priests in

the Church. Father Balasuriya said recently that there was "no reason why there cannot be a black, brown, white or yellow female Pope".

In another slight relaxation of church rules the Vatican also announced that "in exceptional cases" it would consider requests from priests under the age of 40 to be released from their obligation of celibacy and returned to the lay state in order to get married. The previous rule had permitted laicisation only for priests over 40, in cases involving "grave scandal". The rule change appears to be aimed at limiting damage caused by sexual misconduct rather than opening the way for a debate on allowing priests to marry.



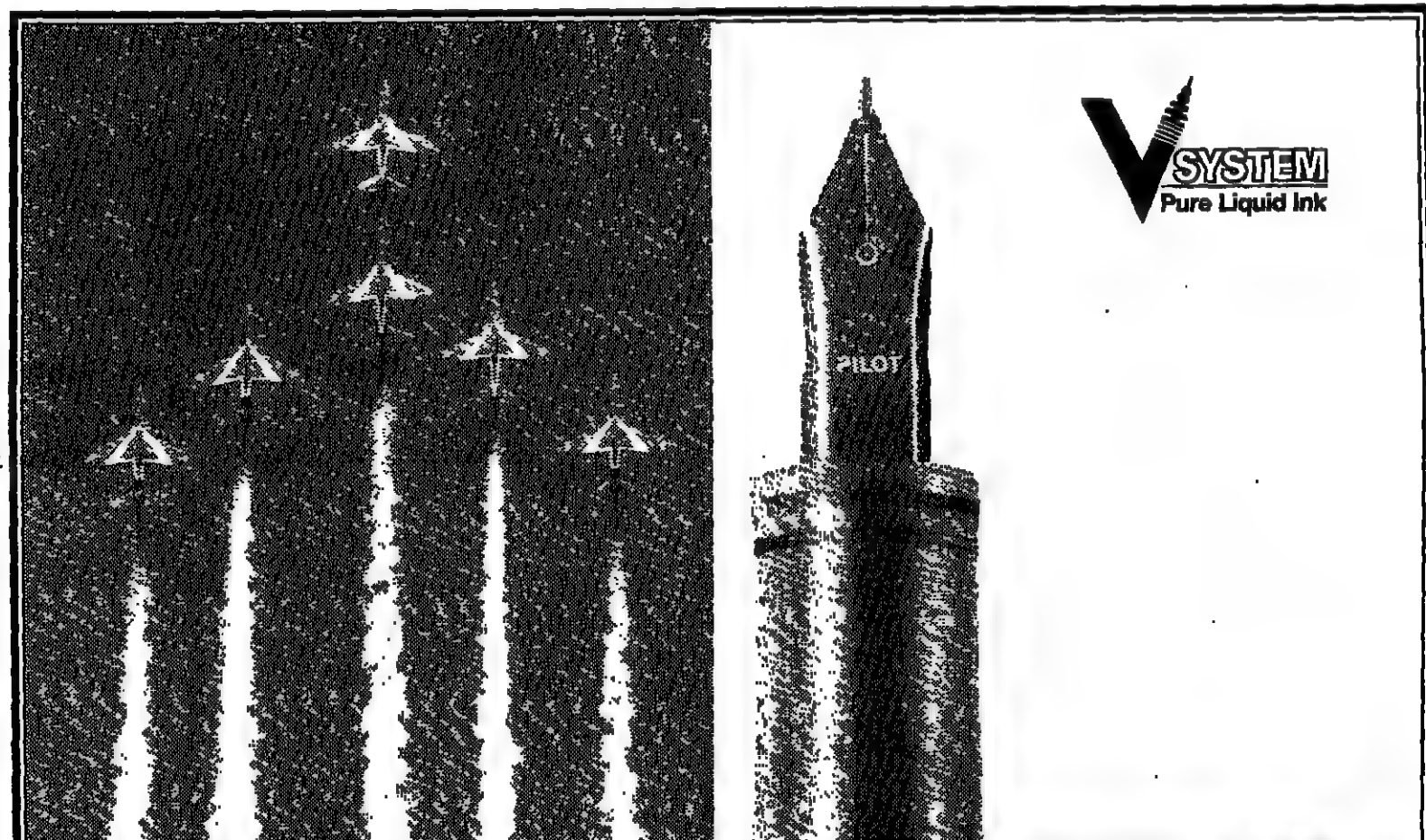
King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia bids goodbye to a Buddhist monk at an historic royal temple in Siem Reap, northern Cambodia, yesterday after spending the morning praying for peace in his country. At the same time sporadic shelling continued in the contested northwestern border town of O'Smach. The king, 74, who

Sihanouk prays for peace

on Sunday offered to mediate between his ousted son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, and the prince's former co-premier, Hun Sen, said he wished Cambodia could be peaceful and united. "The ceremony is to wish that our nation and people stop fighting," he said as he entered the temple, opposite his villa.

The king's repeated pleas for peace have been ignored. Thai army officers report that Cambodian govern-

ment forces under Hun Sen are shelling royalist troops loyal to Prince Ranariddh, and their Khmer Rouge guerrilla allies, dug in on high ground beside the Thai border. Political analysts were not optimistic about the chances of Hun Sen accepting the king's mediation offer. (Reuters)



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Tidal wave adds to Korea havoc

FROM REUTERS
IN BEIJING

A TIDAL wave, caused by a typhoon, that smashed dykes and flooded fields in North Korea last month has dealt a heavy blow to hungry farmers struggling to avert famine in the isolated nation, Red Cross officials said yesterday.

The wave struck North Korea's western coast early on August 21, destroying an estimated 700,000 tonnes of corn and leaving 28,000 people homeless, said Erik Petersen, of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

"In a country that is already very badly hit, it is a disaster, an absolute disaster," Mr. Petersen said from Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. "There was apparently one wave... we have reports that it was more than 8m (26ft) high," he said. Debris had been carried far inland and about 10km (six miles) from the coastline I saw seaweed and glass deposited by the wave on a steel frame about 3m above the ground."

A combination of high tides and the effects of Typhoon Winnie, which lashed eastern China the same night, appeared to have caused the wave, which smashed sea dykes.

People in about 20 countries were already threatened by unrelenting food shortages and poor harvest prospects, Mr. Petersen said. Aid workers and foreign visitors have reported that North Korean farmers have been forced to eat pine bark to stay alive while emaciated children have flocked to hospitals.

Mr. Petersen added: "The Government moved in the army and volunteers to start repairing the dyke and get some water supplies and food," he said.

Sri Lanka elephants fall prey to years of conflict



Christopher Thomas reports from Pinnawela, Sri Lanka, on efforts to protect the island's ravaged elephant herds

SRI LANKA is fighting to save its elephants from poachers, farmers and war. Tamil Tiger guerrillas have machine-gunned many of them for no fathomable reason. Slash-and-burn farmers are destroying the animals' natural habitat, and villagers have perfected primitive home-made rifles that inflict hideous wounds to keep the elephants away from crops.

The Government runs a small elephant orphanage in Pinnawela, 60 miles north of Colombo, the capital — a modest attempt to provide shelter for young animals that would otherwise starve. Some are shipped abroad to zoos when they are restored to health, but the first attempts will be made soon to return others to the wild — a difficult task for animals never forced to forage.

The tragedy of the elephants, for centuries an intrinsic part of the island's culture and still central to Buddhist religious ceremonies, is demonstrated by a seven-year-old male tethered out of sight from tourists at the elephant orphanage, one of its front feet blown off by a landmine. It lifts its leg to anybody approaching in what appears to be an appeal for help.

It used to be taken to the nearby river twice a day with the other 56 elephants in the orphanage, but it lost its balance whenever it received a

playful nudge and crashed painfully on to its side. In frustration it became a fighter and must now be kept alone: cruel isolation for a herd creature. It is chained by one hind leg as well as its good front leg, restricting its movement to a yard or two. It is taken alone to the river most days. The rest of the time it tugs at its tethers in distress.

Slash-and-burn farming, together with legal and illegal logging, have reduced Sri Lanka's forest cover to 20 per cent — still an impressive coverage compared with most countries, and one the Government is attempting to preserve despite mounting population pressure and lack of administrative control over much of the country because of civil war.

Some of the national parks are off-limits because of military activity, making it difficult for environmentalists to check the herds. Forests in northern regions, where the Tamil Tigers are most active, have been substantially destroyed by peasants cutting trees for fuel and shelter.

There is disagreement over the extent of the threat to the elephants. Lal Anthonis, vice-president of the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka, insists that the creatures could be extinct on the island in a decade. He knew of an entire herd of 16 elephants machine-gunned



Bath time at Sri Lanka's elephant orphanage at Pinnawela. Some animals will soon be returned to the wild

several years ago. There are 200 tuskless left in Sri Lanka, all threatened by poachers.

Mr. Anthonis puts the number of Sri Lankan elephants at 2,500 but government officials, using new counting techniques, have raised the official estimate to more than 4,000. They say that projects to provide water tanks and re-

open migration routes blocked by farming should ensure their survival. There were probably 12,000 elephants at the turn of the century.

Many elephants die by falling down pits dug by gem miners, or stumbling into abandoned, overgrown wells. But the biggest threat is from peasant farmers, who can see

six months' work destroyed in a night of foraging by just one elephant. Many of the animals have become aggressive, and increasing numbers of villagers are trapped to death. Elephants have been known to destroy entire villages in search of stocks of salt.

The home-made muzzle-loader rifles produced by

country blacksmiths fire nails, stones and pieces of metal enough to injure, but not to kill outright. It can take months for an elephant to die of its wounds. Landmines also exact a toll. The young elephant in the orphanage is one of the few to survive a mine, although many would argue that death would have been kinder.

Israelis demand Cairo pardon for spy

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

RELATIONS between Israel and Egypt plummeted further yesterday as Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, stepped up pressure on President Mubarak of Egypt to pardon an Israeli Druze convicted of spying for the Jewish state.

"I told him that we expect him to find a way to pardon or release Azam Azam and bring him back to Israel," the Prime Minister told Israeli radio in an interview about a personal telephone call he made to Cairo. "As Prime Minister, I will not rest until he returns home. He is an innocent man."

The radio reported that President Weizman also intended to intervene in the case by contacting his Egyptian counterpart in a new attempt to secure release for the alleged spy. Yitzhak Mordechai, the Israeli Defence Minister, described Azam's lengthy sentence as a "tragedy".

On Sunday, an Egyptian state security court convicted Azam of making criminal arrangements to spy for Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence agency, and sentenced him to 15 years' hard labour. Azam, an engineer in a factory making underwear on the outskirts of Cairo, was arrested last November on the eve of an Arab-Israeli economic conference when he was picked up outside his hotel by Egyptian agents.

Azam's alleged Egyptian accomplice, Emad Abdel Hamid Ismail, and two Israeli Arab women — tried in absentia — were all given life sentences on the same charges at the conclusion of the sensational hearing. Assad Assad, Mr. Netanyahu's adviser on Egypt affairs, said in Cairo: "Druze has no interest in Israel. Azam's sentence is a clear message to the Israeli businessmen who do business here."

The bizarre trial, which began on April 24, brought Egyptian-Israeli relations to their lowest point since the 1979 peace treaty, the first between Israel and an Arab state. "He did not spy, even for a moment," Mr. Netanyahu said in a separate interview.

□ Ban eased: Israel last night relaxed its closure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, apparently to improve relations with the Palestinians before the visit by Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State. Four thousand labourers, 2,000 merchants, 250 teachers and 200 employees of the Palestinian Authority will be allowed in. (AP)

Thai 'hero cabbie' admits to hoax

Bangkok: A taxi driver who became a national hero after reportedly returning 19 million baht (£350,000) to a French passenger yesterday confessed that his story was a hoax.

The admission came after the local press hailed the humble driver as a symbol of honesty. A caller to a radio

phone-in programme had told the story of the incident at Bangkok airport last month. But a voice analysis test by police revealed that the cabbie was the same man who called the talk show to report the act.

The taxi driver, who received honours as well as 200,000 baht in awards and gifts, said on television that he

would pay back the money, although he had already spent 50,000 baht of the proceeds.

Lieutenant-General Sophon Vorachanont, the metropolitan police chief, said his officers expected to conclude their investigations next week and would request from the Interior Ministry a warrant for the cabbie's arrest. (AFP)

US tobacco farmers fear falling demand after cigarette deal

FROM IAN BRODIE IN CLINTON, NORTH CAROLINA

THESE are stressful times for America's tobacco farmers, who are suffering from high anxiety as the forgotten men of the multibillion-dollar deal to pay for smoking-related illnesses and to abolish the promotion of cigarettes to teenagers.

The agreement, which is still awaiting approval by Congress and President Clinton, was reached between manufacturers on one side and state prosecutors and health groups on the other.

The farmers, excluded from the deal, are pleading for guarantees of help from the Government and the beleaguered industry. Adding to their woes, their golden harvest has been adversely affected by the weather this year and prices are down.

Worried faces scan the pungent bales of newly picked tobacco in a warehouse the size of two football fields in the North Carolina farming town of Clinton.

Fred Holland farms 85 acres of tobacco that will probably bring in \$1,500 (£375) an acre, down from last year's \$2,000. He questioned why firms producing Marlboro and other top-selling cigarettes have agreed to pay \$368.5 billion over 25 years to compensate for the medical and other costs of smoking.

He patted his ample stomach and said: "I love to overeat, but I can't sue McDonald's for selling me greasy French fries. We're all going to go through the medical system and die some time, costing money. Why charge the tobacco industry?"

Mr Holland misses the point that the firms are trying to limit their liability and to avoid damaging court cases showing how much they knew about the dangers of smoking. "No one ever held a gun to someone's head and forced them to light up," Mr Holland said. "And it can't be addictive because millions have stopped."

Freedom of choice is a mantra heard repeatedly in tobacco country. Nonetheless, tobacco folk mostly choose not to smoke.

Tommy Hobbs and his two sons, John and Tommy Jr, trace their tobacco-growing heritage back to British colonial times. Output from America's 124,000 tobacco farms has been flat since 1990 and is 25 per cent below levels in the 1970s.

The Hobbs trio bridle at suggestions of being engaged in anti-social work. Like their neighbours, the Hobbs family has diversified into other crops, but none comes close to tobacco's rewards.

In Washington's greatest contradiction, the Government zealously discourages smoking while running a price-support programme that amounts to money in the bank for tobacco farmers. It guarantees them a minimum return on crops in exchange for strict limits on acreage planted.

Dan Glickman, the Agriculture Secretary, says that price supports are likely to continue but he has refused to endorse farmers' demands for cash buyouts and other economic help.

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US role in Holocaust gold saga heralds fiery test of diplomacy

INSIDE GERMANY

The German Finance Ministry is run by calm, even stolid Rhinelanders who favour long weekends. They do not panic easily. Yet the ministry now resembles an upset ant's nest, and not only because of its increasingly erratic chief, Theo Waigel, nor even because of the black-magical book-keeping of economic and monetary union.

The problem is Robin Cook's December conference on Nazi gold. To establish how much gold was stolen by the Germans from the Jews and from occupied countries, key Reichsbank files need to be analysed. But most have disappeared. No one in the ministry, nor in the Bundesbank can track them down. This is more



BY ROGER BOYES

jewellery brought to the Reich. The Americans filmed the papers and stored the records in Washington. These copies are also missing or seriously depleted. Between 200 and 300 Reichsbank files, comprehensive catalogues of gold deliveries, survived the Second World War.

After 1945 they were placed under the supervision of the US Foreign Exchange Depository in occupied Germany. According to reports compiled by a US Treasury Department official, the files were handed over in 1948 to the Bank of German Länder (states), the forerunner of the Bundesbank. But the transfer took place "after a copy had

been made of the files in order to make the information available to Washington". By 1956, the German Finance Minister — pressed on by colleagues in The Netherlands and Italy — was declaring that such files no longer existed. Between 1948 and 1956, in other words, they were either hidden or destroyed.

Dr Fischer is not a conspiracy theorist nor is he anti-American. But he can smell a rat. Both the Germans and the Americans, he reasons, had an interest in these files disappearing. He says: "The young West German state had a motive because Albert Thoms, the deputy director of

the future Bundesbank, was the former head of the Reichsbank's gold department. And America was drawn in because it gave gold — knowing it to have been stolen — to the newly resurrected Central Bank of Western Europe."

His point is clear: it is hypocritical of America to lead the attack against Swiss wartime profiteering, since it once possessed the files which would have provided the basis for a proper compensation of Holocaust victims.

Tainted gold was put in the pot of the tripartite commission — comprising America, Britain and France — and distributed to war-damaged countries and other beneficiaries. There is no suggestion that Washington profited from the Nazi booty. The postwar priority was clear: to create stable gold-backed economies in Germany and elsewhere in Western Europe, and above all to fortify the Continent for the Cold War with Moscow.

The discoveries by Dr Fischer — who has ploughed through German federal archives, the ghetto records of Lodz and the company documents of Degussa, the main German gold smelter — show some of the difficulties of managing Mr Cook's London conference. Will it try to put Switzerland in the dock?

Well-researched books, by Tom Bower and Adam LeBar, the crusading of Senator Alfonse D'Amato and the World Jewish Congress have flushed out most of the facts about the behaviour of Swiss banks.

Everyone agrees it is not a pretty story. But there is still some vagueness about how much dirty gold really ended up in Zurich. As long as the Germans and America cannot come up with the missing files, Switzerland will have a line of defence. And Washington may come under fire itself.

In Germany, this remains a war subject: not because the

Italian men are taught a few home truths

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALIAN men have been urged to cast aside their macho image and become "new men", on the grounds that changing nappies, sewing on buttons and doing the laundry will make them more virile rather than less.

"Plunge your hands into the washing and devote yourself to making good things in the kitchen," said the organisers of a "new man" club after a four-day symposium held in the town of Calce, in the hills of Lazio, north of Rome.

The club claims to have 15,000 members throughout Italy, and aims to set up a "new man" centre in every town. "Housework is not effeminate: on the contrary, your wife or partner will benefit from your extra powers," the organisers said.

The club faces an uphill struggle in the country of *la bella figura*, where men are pampered by their mothers and wives, and learn from an early age that life revolves around them. "We want to rid ourselves of the image imposed on Italian men which forces them to pretend they are all perfect lovers when in fact they are stressed," said Antonio D'Andrea, one of the founders. He said some of the members were retired or unemployed, but most were professional men in their thirties and forties who had tired of the rat race.

At Calce, which was chosen for its rural calm, men are taught "the essential skills of house-husbandry" such as how to darn socks, sew on buttons, bottle tomatoes and make jam.

Potential new men are urged to avoid washing machines. On the ground that the effort of washing clothes by hand increases strength and "potency". One recruit said: "We're going down to the local river shortly to learn how to pound clothes on rocks."

In the kitchen, members are told to eschew frozen food and opt for "wholesome recipes" involving rice, chickpeas and home-grown tomatoes. "Keeping a house in order and preparing healthy meals amounts to shock treatment for the virility crisis of modern man," Signor D'Andrea told *La Repubblica*. "Modern stress is reducing men's potency and sperm counts."

Another founder member, Paolo D'Arpini, a former electronics factory executive, said he had found changing nappies "disgusting" but had gradually come to see that being with his son was more important than working.

Alex Marengi, an antiques dealer, said he prided himself on his cleaning and sweeping. "I have always enjoyed going camping with male chums, and when you live under canvas you all muck in to do the washing and cleaning. You also find yourself gossiping about your love lives while doing the chores."

La Repubblica commented that, in reality, housework was profoundly boring and many women led lonely lives in urban flats rather than communing with others.

Yeltsin aims to retire in 2000

FROM RICHARD BERTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday started his campaign when he told a group of schoolchildren that he had no plans to remain in office beyond the turn of the century — when his presidential term expires.

Speaking to boys and girls at Moscow School No 1253 on the first day of term, the Russian leader said that a younger, more energetic leader should be given the chance to run the Kremlin. "My term ends in 2000. I will no longer run for President," he said, to the astonishment of aides and assembled reporters.

The remarks were the clearest indication yet that the President, 66, the first democratically elected leader in Russian history, is planning to set another precedent by retiring of his own will.

Under the Russian constitution, he is barred from a third term. However, given his current level of political power in Russia, where there is almost no challenge to his authority, it would not be difficult to devise a way around the constitutional hurdle should he wish.

Although he was ill for most of last year, when he had a multiple heart bypass operation, today the Russian leader is a revitalised figure. He has lost weight, cut down on excessive drinking and is planning visits around the globe to cap his last years in office.

He has also begun delegating authority to the team of young reformers in his government, and hinted broadly yesterday that he hoped his successor would be drawn from their ranks. That new generation is best personified by Boris Nemtsov, the Deputy Prime Minister, and former Governor of Nizhny Novgorod, who has been leading the opinion polls since May and currently ranks as Russia's most trusted politician with 21 per cent support.

However, the charismatic reformer will have to work hard over the next three years if he hopes to mount a serious



President Yeltsin greets a pupil on a visit yesterday to a school in Moscow to mark the start of the Russian academic year

challenge. He has recently become the target of a concerted smear campaign orchestrated by powerful financiers, angered over his role in a controversial privatisation deal. His relative inexperience in Moscow politics and his Jewishness could also prove big obstacles on his path to the Kremlin.

Another contender must be Yuri Luzhkov, the powerful Mayor of Moscow. Despite his repeated denials, most

politicians, including members of his staff, believe the presidency is his secret goal. The Mayor is currently orchestrating a lavish celebration marking Moscow's 850th anniversary, an event many suspect is merely a public relations exercise to promote his image nationwide.

Certainly, the Moscow city boss is keen on projecting his image well beyond the capital's boundaries. He has recently launched a new tele-

vision network, spent time on foreign visits and is financing charitable projects across Russia. However, he must overcome public anger at his continued association with suspected underworld figures, and the traditional suspicion that Moscow arouses in the rest of Russia.

Apart from the two new contenders, many of last year's unsuccessful candidates are also likely to have another shot at the presidency. Alek-

sandr Lebed, the gruff former paratroop general, who came third last year, still has a solid following in Russia: he is respected for his tough, incorruptible approach to politics and for ending the bloody war in Chechnya.

Another likely challenger will be Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, who came second last year and can still count on the rank-and-file support of millions of communists who

mourn the passing of the Soviet Union.

□ German pledge: In a move that could help to resolve the dispute over looted art treasures, President Herzog of Germany promised yesterday during a four-day visit to Russia that his country would seek to return panels of the famed 18th-century Amber Room, which were stolen by Nazi forces from the palace of Catherine the Great outside St Petersburg. (AP)

WORLD SUMMARY

Olympic office is bombed

Athens: A bomb has exploded outside the offices of the Greek Olympic Committee in an apparent attempt to derail the city's bid to host the 2004 Games, police said.

The home-made bomb, set off on Sunday by anarchists, started a fire which was brought quickly under control and did little damage. In a telephone call to the media, a group calling itself "Struggle against Power" claimed responsibility.

It has carried out a dozen blasts in the last few years. The latest comes five days before a decision is made on the Games venue. (AFP)

Three hurt in Mafia clash

Naples: Two children, aged 10 and 12, and a man, 37, were wounded in crossfire during a gangland shootout near Naples, Italian newspapers and agencies reported. The gun battle between rival gangs of the Camorra, the Neapolitan Mafia, took place on Sunday in Torre Annunziata, a town on the slopes of Mount Vesuvius on the outskirts of Naples. (AP)

Algeria death toll rises

Paris: More than 50 people were killed in Algeria at the weekend, just days after the worst massacre in nearly six years of violence resulted in up to 300 deaths, Algerian newspapers said. They said that 19 civilians, most of them children, were killed in two attacks in the capital Algiers, at least another 20 were killed outside the city, and 15 Muslim rebels died. (Reuters)

Hundreds die in monsoon

Islamabad: Floods and landslides caused by monsoon rains in northern Pakistan have killed 140 people in the past week. In Punjab, where four of the five major rivers flowing through the central province broke their banks, 118 people died. Most were drowned or crushed when houses collapsed after more than 1,000 villages were flooded. (Reuters)

Enclave votes for president

Stepanakert: Nagorno-Karabakh, at the heart of a decade-long war between Azeris and Armenians, held elections for a new president despite foreign pressure to abandon the poll. Arkady Gukasyan, 40, "foreign minister" of the breakaway region, is expected to defeat two other candidates. A third of the 90,000 people eligible to vote had done so by midday. (Reuters)

Legal pause

Berlin: A labour court here failed to reach a decision in a dispute between a bass player who signed a bill "Adolf Hitler" in Israel, and the orchestra that fired him. Another court will hear the case. (AP)

EU gives cash to clean up Bohemian vice zone

Roger Boyes reports on plans to supply tea and condoms in a safe-sex project

THE European Union is to help finance the cleaning-up of one of the Continent's most active red-light districts, providing tea rooms and laundrettes for prostitutes in Bohemia.

The beneficiaries of the Brussels largesse are the hundreds of prostitutes who line the roads of the Czech Republic close to the German frontier. Their low prices are a magnet for German customers and the region has become an important source of East-West sex tourism. More and more customers are returning with some form of sexually transmitted disease.

The EU has agreed to earmark £50,000 a year until 2000 to help finance a safe-sex project jointly run by the Bavarian region of Cham and the neighbouring Czech region of Domazlice. The area encompasses about 45 miles of shared frontier, densely populated with prostitutes. Even the smallest villages on the Czech side boast a "Gentlemen's Club" or a "Bar Angelika", neon-lit clubs which are fronts for brothels.

Along a six-mile stretch of highway, 150 prostitutes ply their trade every night. Sex is usually conducted in a car on a country lay-by. Two Germans were recently killed by Czech pimps on this road but the main risk is from unprotected sex. A

recent study showed that a third of the prostitutes — many of them drawn from the former Soviet Union, from Romania and Slovakia — were infected.

"We do not see ourselves as the extended arm of the police," says Heide Fleischmann, the project leader. Her first aim will be to seek contact with prostitutes, brothel owners and pimps, and persuade them to issue and use condoms. "We do not want to give these people the impression that we are trying to spoil their business."

The EU money will, according to Tatjana Sindelarova, from the hygiene office in Domazlice, be used to set up mobile tea rooms to distribute advice, sympathy and contraceptives to the prostitutes. "Women will also be able to shower here and wash their clothes," says Mrs Sindelarova.

The real significance of the EU aid is that it has given enhanced status to prostitutes' collectives, self-help groups that have sprung up in Berlin, Nuremberg, Frankfurt and other cities. They have been campaigning for the Government to recognise prostitutes as a normal service sector and — since German prostitutes pay tax — to have equal rights to pensions and social insurance.

A study by the Berlin senate calculated that there are at least 500 brothels in the city, employing more than 5,000 women. Over half of these prostitutes are from Eastern Europe and are often operated by Russian pimps; this in turn has fed organised crime and contributes to the many gang wars.

The EU grant thus has a broader target, as it is recognised that Germany has a special problem with crime imported from the East. European assistance will help the Government to persuade Germans that Brussels is not indifferent to cross-border criminality and perhaps ease the spreading disdain for the way that the EU distributes its funds. But it is also likely to stir up controversy from those who believe that European cash should not be squandered on winning over the trust of brothel owners.



Cheap prostitutes attract Germans to the Czech Republic

Serb crowd stones Nato troops guarding TV mast

FROM REUTERS IN BANJA LUKA

ABOUT 100 Serbs pelted Nato soldiers with stones yesterday as they guarded a television transmitter in northeastern Bosnian Serb territory, a United Nations spokesman said.

Andrea Angel, spokesman for the International Police Task Force in Tuzla, said the soldiers were guarding a transmitter at Udrigovo, near

Bijeljina. There were no immediate reports of injuries and it was not known who the attackers were, but hardliners loyal to Radovan Karadzic, the indicted war crimes suspect, have attempted several times to retake the transmitter.

Major Chris Riley, a Nato spokesman, said Stabilisation Force troops had repulsed at least two attempts by groups to take the Udrigovo transmitter. They had disarmed one group of

27 people, some armed with assault weapons, and turned back an unarmed crowd who said they were supporters of President Plavsic.

In the tense northeast of Bosnian Serb territory, where Dr Karadzic is locked in a power struggle with the Western-backed Mrs Plavsic, a small crowd jeered and threw rocks at a convoy of American armoured vehicles just outside Ugljevic, on the road between Bijeljina and Tuzla. Some of

the people who attacked the convoy appeared to have arrived in buses, which were parked nearby. There were no injuries.

The incident came just five days after American soldiers under Nato command were attacked by an angry mob in the eastern town of Brcko. Two soldiers were injured in the riot, one seriously, and the attack was condemned by the White House and Nato command in Brussels.

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You can break the law and get away with it, if the sums of money involved are huge

Freedom, money and morality

If there is one universal rule, it is "in making money you can break the law and get away with it, provided the sums of money involved are huge". Steal a few hundred dollars and you will go to jail. Steal a hundred million and the worst that can happen to you is that you will have to live in luxury in some foreign clime.

This is not just because if you are rich, you can afford good lawyers. Dishonesty on a massive scale involves many people, most of whom like to think of themselves as honest and upright. They will use their power and influence to protect themselves, and thus you.

Why do people stray from their principles when money is in the offing? Because money means more — more choice, more freedom, more goodies. There is also our fundamental insecurity — of being always in danger of being overwhelmed by events in a world over which we have so little control. With money we can demand that the world be what we want it to be. So Asil Nadir, who in 1990 faced a bankruptcy petition for millions of pounds and a long set of criminal charges, says himself in northern Cyprus, and Mrs Jones is banged up in Holloway because she can't pay her television licence.

The callousness of the market and the fine distinctions we all make about the importance of money was something I learnt about early in life. My mother disapproved of gambling. She discovered that my father had given his brother money to help him with a gambling debt and threat-

In the final part of our series **Dorothy Rowe** questions our attitudes to money

ened to end their marriage. Mother had a habit of hiding special things in the oven. One evening dad arrived home and found her in tears. Because the weather had suddenly turned cold, she had lit the stove and burnt a very special pair of silk stockings. Dad reached into his pocket, took out a wad of notes and offered them to her. They could have come from only one place, a bookmaker's. Without a word she reached out and took the money.

Why does the chance of getting money so often override the most dearly held principles? In my mother's case, I know why. She was the fourth of six in a family where blows and harsh words were plenty and kisses rare, and so the hole inside her was as wide and deep as the Pacific.

The fact that we go around with these holes inside us is not an excuse for being greedy or behaving dishonestly. It is simply one of the factors we need to take into account when we are choosing how we shall live our lives.

We need to consider as well our responsibility to other people and the consequences of our actions.

If it is wrong to steal a

million from a company, is it also wrong to steal small quantities of that company's stationery? A personnel manager told me how she had done some research on the quantity of stationery lost when employees think along the lines of "I need a new hole punch at home, so I'll take this one and order another through stationery". The total value of the stuff taken made it a major crime. Such activity can arise from having a relativist view with very relaxed definitions of right and wrong, or an absolutist view and be well practised in fudging.

By fudging I mean big leaps in argument, changing the meanings of the words used from one statement to another and ignoring the inconvenient facts to arrive at a conclusion that benefits the fudger.

Understanding our lack of virtue is simply a matter of observing what happens to us and how we interpret what happens to us. Morality is concerned with how we behave towards one another.

We are all born lacking a conscience, not because we are inherently wicked, but because we lack the concepts necessary for a conscience. Once we discover other people and have the chance to form a bond with one mothering person, we soon acquire a conscience, because we realise that to maintain this bond, we have sometimes to relinquish our own needs and wishes and defer to someone else. We can no longer be totally selfish, though sometimes we might try.

© Dorothy Rowe, 1997. *The Real Meaning of Money* is published by HarperCollins on September 12

The day Diana died

Everyone will remember where they were when they heard the news that Diana had died, says **Sue Corrigan**

The news was so shocking that for a brief moment, time froze. It was precisely the same sensation as hearing the first unbelievable reports, 34 years ago, that John F Kennedy had been assassinated in Dallas.

The shock was made even worse by the merciless timing. Sunday morning is, for most, a peaceful, sleepy, cosy time. Nothing much happens. Few people are out and about, there is little traffic, the telephone doesn't ring for a few hours, and all seems blessedly quiet.

This Sunday morning was to be different. All over Britain, telephones shrilled in the early morning as friends and relatives rang from across the world to break the news. It was as though people overseas

'I had to go to Paris, so I decided to see the tunnel'

needed to speak to someone in Britain before they could believe the news flashes on their own television and radio stations.

But taking the calls, often when only half-awake, people in this country had to rush to their own television and radio sets before they themselves could believe what they were hearing.

Around Britain, people were woken by the sound of family members crying or shouting out the news from kitchens and sitting rooms. Others were woken by clock radios, broadcasting not Sunday morning's usual soothing music, but first details of the ghastly events in Paris.

Just as on the day of John F Kennedy's death, every person in Britain will remember for the rest of their lives exactly where they were and what they were doing when they first heard the news that Diana, Princess of Wales, was dead.

The following are just a few accounts:

DAVID Leigh, of Horsham, West Sussex, was woken at 6.30am by a phone call from his mother in Australia. Because of time zone differences — Australia is nine hours ahead of the UK — millions of Australians had already heard the news on early afternoon television and radio bulletins.

"My mother was semi-hysterical," he says. Mr Leigh's wife, Sue, says: "I live in fear of a call in the middle of the night informing me that someone in my family has been killed. I went into the sitting room to ask about the call and my husband told me he had some bad news and that I had better sit down. He told me to turn on the TV because, frankly, I didn't believe him."

"I had to go out a few hours later and I left the house in a complete daze. I was so preoccupied and shocked that I almost caused a crash myself."

ANNABEL Heslitt: "I was in Brussels with friends. I came downstairs in the morning and they were all watching TV. I had to go through Paris to get home, so I decided to see the tunnel where she died."

CAROL Midgey, a *Times* journalist, was visiting her parents in Lancashire. Her father shouted out the news up the stairs, waking her at 8.30am. "My parents were really shocked. I jumped in the car to return to London but the journey took about seven hours because of bad delays on the M1. I saw many people in cars alongside me crying."

VIRGINIA Ironside, agony aunt "A friend rang me surprisingly early to ask me if I'd heard the news. I thought she must have an appalling piece of gossip to ring this early — like a mutual friend had run off with a show girl. What was interesting was that she



Lord Blake heard the news on the radio at 4.55am. "I lay staring ahead of me. Sleep would have been impossible"

felt it was intimate gossip, which shows how much Diana meant to everybody. I took a flower to Kensington Palace. When I got there I couldn't believe I was doing it."

BRYCE Corbett, a tourist, says: "I was checking out of my hotel when the desk clerk asked me if I had heard. I didn't believe it, so he turned on the radio so I could hear for myself. I spent about four hours wandering aimlessly around Oxford listening to a radio through headphones, completely numbed. Then I called my girlfriend in Australia about it and then a friend in London. I needed to talk about what had happened."

RICHARD Branson, the head of the Virgin Group, was flying from Los Angeles to London when the news came through. He was on board the *Lady in Red*, the plane which the Princess had named three years earlier.

"The fax said that her friend had been killed and that she had been seen staggering from the car. We desperately hoped that she was okay," says Mr Branson who had regularly dined with the Princess.

Mr Branson fell asleep but was woken by the pilot. He was ash-faced. "I will never forget it. He said: 'Princess Diana is dead.' I knew what he was saying must be true but I did not want to believe it." Shortly before they touched down Mr Branson broke the news to the passengers. Many broke down in tears.

"When we landed at Heathrow it was eerily quiet. Then I knew for sure that she had gone. I will miss her."

MICHAEL Knipe, of Camden, went to bed relatively early on Saturday, leaving his wife to watch a late-night movie. "My wife heard the first news flash that Dodi Fayed had been killed and woke me up. We listened to the radio for a while. As soon as I woke, I turned on the radio again and listened to the news until about 9am, when I turned on the television coverage, which I found totally hypnotising."

"In the afternoon we walked around Holland Park and as we were quite close to Kensington Palace, I suggested we go there. There were about 1,000 people there at 4pm. We stayed for about 30 minutes, then returned home, watching the television coverage again

until quite late into Sunday night."

JAMES Naughtie, co-presenter of Radio 4's *Today* programme: "I was woken by my editor just after 2am. After I arrived, in a very unshaven state, at Broadcasting House, it gradually became clear that the events were much more serious than we first thought. By the time we went on air at 5am I knew Diana, Princess of

'I knew it must be true but I did not want to believe it'

Wales was dead. For me there wasn't a stunning moment when the news broke which meant that the enormity of the event took some time to dawn on me.

"The most poignant moment was not when I was on air, but when I watched the plane land at RAF Northolt with the sound of the last hymn at St. Paul's playing in the background. That is a scene I will not forget."

"I was on air from 5am until 9.30, with Peter Allen of Radio 5 Live. We were broadcasting on Radio 2, 3, 4 and 5, breaking news to the nation as they were waking up. The extraordinary realisation that when we were saying what had happened for the fifth or sixth time at 8.00am and 9.00am, we knew that people would be waking up with no idea that we had been living with these events for hours."

PORTIA Colwell was at her parents' home in Beaulieu, Hampshire. She was woken by the sound of her mother "crying her eyes out". "My boyfriend had called earlier that morning with the news, and my mother spoke to him. I was lying in bed and I heard her crying. I was extremely upset when she told me. 'I really admired Diana for her charity work. We turned the TV on immediately but then we had to get out of the house. We went for a long walk. Everyone around the village was very quiet, and all the flags were at half-mast. I don't

think anyone could quite believe it. I can't believe she's not just going to be back in the newspapers tomorrow."

LORD Blake, the constitutionalist and historian who advises Buckingham Palace, was in bed listening to the BBC World Service. He had switched on at 4.30am after a bad night's sleep.

"The music was dismal. At 4.55am the programme was interrupted by a voice saying: 'We interrupt the programme to bring the sad news of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and her companion Dodi Fayed in a motor car accident in Paris. There was no doubt."

"It was a dreadful feeling. I was absolutely stunned. I lay staring ahead of me. I decided to get up. Sleep would have been impossible."

The historian went downstairs and turned on the television. "I was glued to it for three hours. I did not move. And then the phone started ringing."

Lord Blake says he was working in his study when he heard about the assassination of President Kennedy: "But this news about the Princess was much more shocking because of her youth, her beauty, her young sons, and the fact she was doing so much good. I still feel numb today."

CLEMENTINA Ajuonuma, of Newham, East London, was woken by

the sound of her mother's screams of horror and disbelief after turning on the television to watch an early news bulletin on Sunday morning. "She was so shocked and upset, she was almost hysterical," Clementina says.

"Just after my mother heard, an aunt rang. She had been called at 6am by a relative in Florida, and then shortly after by another relative in Italy. We left at 8.30am to go to church. Everyone at the service knew. Many were crying."

LORD Archer of Weston-super-Mare was woken with the news by a telephone call at 4.10am from his closest friend Sir Nicholas Lloyd, the former editor of the *Daily Express*. "I woke Mary. Her first words were: 'Those poor boys.'"

Within minutes the telephone was ringing with interview requests from broadcasters around the world. "It was one of the darkest moments of my life," he said. When John F. Kennedy died Lord Archer was in the Oxford Union.

"The Union president announced that the president of the United States had been assassinated and that he was closing the Union for the night. We all left. People will remember when they were told about the death of Princess Diana for generations. They will never forget."

Additional reporting by Candida Scott-Knight

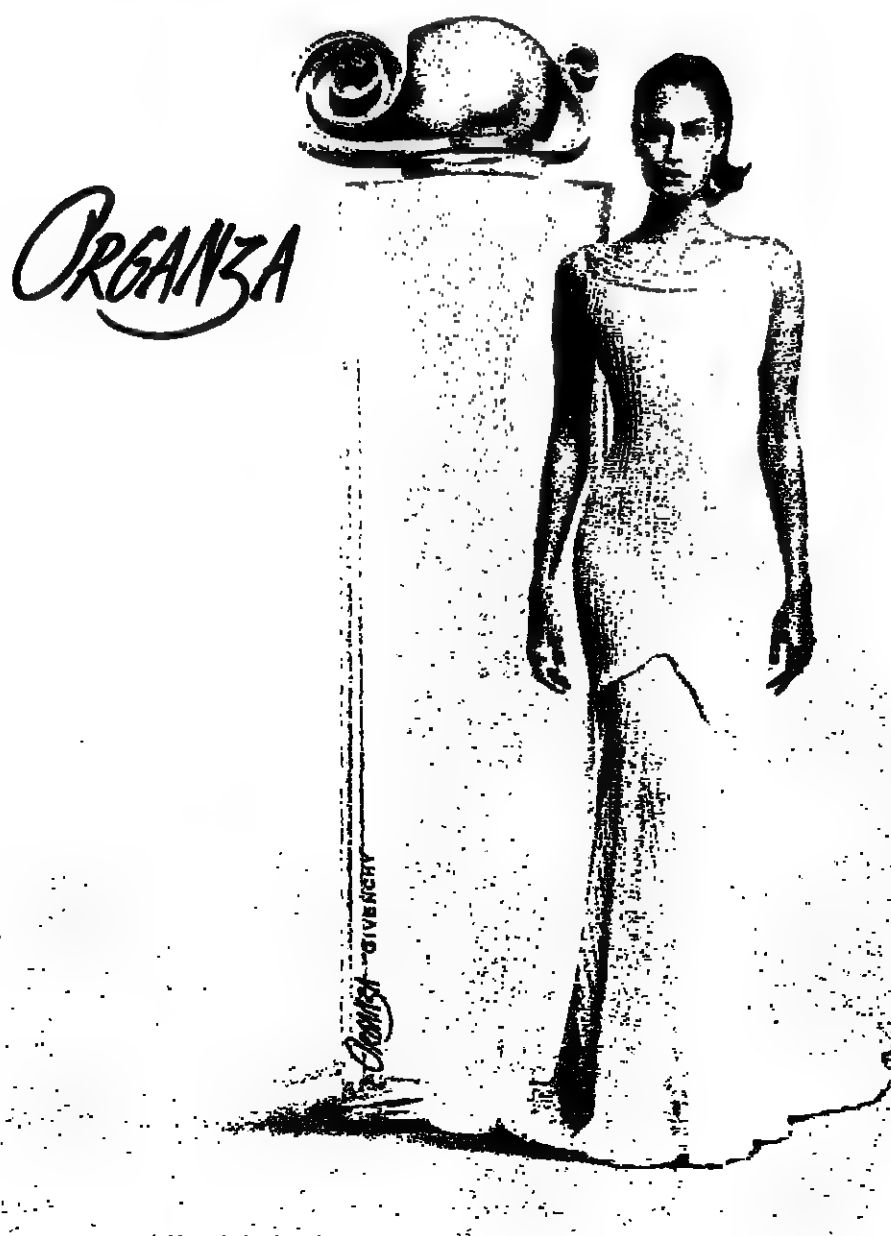
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GIVENCHY



The Princes should be able to talk about their mother to people who cared for her

The Princess's death may haunt other children whose parents are divorced. Bill Frost reports

The violent death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has left millions grieving for her and feeling sympathy for her sons, the young Princes William and Harry, left behind to face life without a mother's love. Blanket coverage of the tragedy may also have traumatised thousands of children and adolescents who have gone through their parents' divorce and now fear an even greater loss of stability — that they, too, will have a parent taken from them for ever.

Dr Dora Black, a consultant psychiatrist specialising in the emotional and traumatic stress disorder problems of the young, warns that the death of the Princess will have produced an emotional effect wider than the immediate sense of bereavement, and one which will require immediate attention.

"After this appalling accident, children from a single-parent family — made that way by divorce — who have witnessed the separation of their parents will themselves be worried about their mothers. There will be a considerable upsurge in anxiety."

"No one has been left unmoved by this event, the tragic and early death of Diana, but for the young and vulnerable it

is particularly unsettling. Many will be worried, consciously or otherwise, that their mothers will be killed in a car accident or other tragedy, too — that they will be left without any parents at all."

Dr Black says that younger children may want to follow their mothers everywhere — even into the lavatory. "The parent must understand that this is a temporary but very serious reaction to what has happened and the coverage of the story; if one very high-profile mother is taken from her children, why should it not happen to them?"

Older children and adolescents whose parents are separated will also experience an increase in anxiety at the prospect of bereavement. "They may well worry a great deal but not voice their fears," says Dr Black.

That concern will manifest itself in disobedience, disagreeable behaviour and moodiness. The unconscious rationale behind the behaviour is 'She may well reject me [by dying], so I will reject her first'.

Parents still together may also find their children displaying similar symptoms after exposure to the inescapable coverage of Diana's

death. They too must stress that such events, though tragic, are fortunately rare, says Dr Black.

"Tell your children that you will look after yourselves and always drive carefully. Diana's death was horrible but it does not mean that every mother will die that way."

"I cannot stress highly enough though that parents, particularly divorced parents, should anticipate these problems. They ought to start talking out their children's insecurities now."

Dr Black is concerned that any child returning to school in such circumstances should be treated with care and compassion.

"The death should be acknowledged, not swept under the carpet. Pupils and teachers should be able to approach and say 'I am really sorry your mother has died'."

"Most importantly there should be no bullying or teasing; headmasters and other teachers must ensure that doesn't happen. I'm afraid such behaviour is not unknown and no child should be exposed to that at such a sensitive time, particularly when violent bereavement is concerned."

"There is a higher risk of psychological damage after sudden bereavement, so any child should be given help in talking about their mother to people around them. People feel cared as much for their mother as they did."

"Again, talking in general terms, they must be allowed to attend the funeral and to view the body — that helps in the process of acknowledging that she really is dead."

"At the funeral itself they must be supported by someone close. It does not necessarily have to be a parent — it could be a nanny or family friend."

Another child psychiatrist, who would speak about the Princes only on the condition of anonymity, said yesterday that their ordeal might be harder to face given "the professional dignity and emotional control of the family they had been born into".

He told *The Times*: "That is not a criticism, many families find it hard to express their deepest feelings at a time like this. However, when you are constantly in the public view, that makes the image of stoic dignity even more difficult to maintain and the pain of private grief even more heavy."

"No royal house welcomes tears from the main players at a state funeral. Ironically, of course, Diana herself would have been the first to break that rule: she allowed her emotions free expression."

Dr Stephen Palmer, director



The young Princes' ordeal might be harder to face given "the professional dignity and emotional control of the family they have been born into"

of the Centre for Stress Management, in southeast London, said yesterday that among adults faced with such tragedy, those left behind would experience a complex gamut of emotions. Those emotions might be all the more difficult to acknowledge when the equation was complicated by the element of divorce.

"I think the manifestations of normal grief run through sadness, anger, hostility, anxiety and self-reproach — but that's in a normal set of circumstances."

"If they have been exacerbated for some reason — say you are haunted by the feeling 'I should not have done that' and believe that others judge

send them plunging back into numb disbelief."

"The key issue here is ensuring that substantial care is given to the child or adolescent after the death of a parent. Someone, ideally the surviving parent, must take over that role as best he or she can."

However, what course of action lies open should that person be emotionally colder or more withdrawn than the dead parent? "They must either make the effort, or someone who can attempt the task must step into the breach," says Dr Palmer.

"In many extended families there is such a support system available. But when it is not, that void must be filled, say by

nately, there will be intrusion by press photographers and camera crews at the moment when they should be given the time and space to deal with this tragedy away from the limelight."

Susan Wallbank, a counsellor for the bereavement care organisation *Cruse*, of which the Queen is a patron, spoke yesterday of the problems faced by any family confronting the loss of a member already separated from them by divorce.

"I stress I am talking generally here — one is never judgmental, one never talks of dysfunctional families, it is most unhelpful. But in any family, every family, guilt is

the most remarkable feature of the grieving process. Those left behind think, 'How could I have made things different', 'If only I could turn the clock back'. That is true of the highest and lowest families in the land."

"Both father and mother brought a special set of qualities which their children came to recognise and rely upon. One could be warm, the other a bit more distant. That's the way people are, it doesn't suggest one is right or the other wrong to be that way."

"The one left behind must learn to replicate the qualities of the one who has gone. The younger the child, the greater the need for the father to be as warm and loving as the mother who has been taken from them."

"Although the loss is also horrific for the adult, he or she can still open up his or her own history and find the emotions given at childhood. They can cast themselves in a joint role."

People can change, and death changes everything. While everything is permissible in the early stages of grief, the parent who survives has a duty to keep the family intact, to alter if necessary — anything to ensure the survival of the family."



Other children may think that if Diana can die, so can their mothers

you as the guilty party for some reason — then guilt and self-reproach increase."


"In some cases that can lead to members of the surviving family blaming themselves for what has happened to the deceased. That leads to a very negative outlook on life, and on oneself, along with feelings of helplessness, loneliness and fatigue."

Children and adolescents tragically deprived of a parent, having already undergone the trauma of witnessing their mother and father getting divorced, could give the impression of coming to terms with bereavement. However, the most trivial event could

a favourite nanny or a relative. All the children want is stability and, sadly, the surviving parent is not always able to provide that."

For the children, maintenance of "routine, the appearance of life going on as normal" is central to swift acknowledgement and acceptance of the permanence of death. "They must accept that they will never see that person again and still be able to grieve at the same time."

Speaking specifically about the two Princes, Dr Palmer, a chartered psychologist, said they should be allowed to mourn in private. "Grief is a very personal thing. Unfortun-



Please note that, with effect from 2nd September 1997 the following increase in interest rates will apply.

OPEN ACCOUNT TYPES		GROSS RATE (%)	GROSS RATE (%)	NET RATE (%)
ONE YEAR SAVINGS	£1,000 to under £25,000	5.00%	5.00%	4.00%
	£25,000 to under £100,000	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
	£100,000 to under £250,000	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
	£250,000 to under £500,000	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
	£500,000 up to £2,000,000	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
TESSA CHOISE	30 DAYS NOTICE	5.50%	7.20%	N/A
OLYMPIC SAVINGS	£2,500 to under £10,000	2.00%	2.00%	1.80%
	£10,000 to under £25,000	2.00%	2.00%	1.80%
	£25,000 to under £50,000	2.00%	2.00%	1.80%
	£50,000 to under £100,000	2.00%	2.00%	1.80%
	£100,000 up to £250,000	2.00%	2.00%	1.80%
REGENT/REGAL	£500 to under £2,500	2.00%	2.00%	1.80%
	£2,500 to under £5,000	2.00%	2.00%	1.80%
	£5,000 to under £10,000	2.00%	2.00%	1.80%
	£10,000 to under £25,000	2.00%	2.00%	1.80%
	£25,000 up to £150,000	2.00%	2.00%	1.80%
COUNTY SAVINGS	£500 to under £2,500	3.20%	3.17%	2.54%
	£2,500 to under £5,000	3.00%	3.00%	2.40%
	£5,000 to under £10,000	4.40%	4.40%	3.52%
	£10,000 to under £25,000	5.17%	5.17%	4.10%
	£25,000 to under £50,000	6.00%	6.00%	4.50%
	£50,000 up to £200,000	6.45%	6.45%	5.19%
FOLLOW-UP TESSA	up to £100,000 TESSA members only	7.50%	7.50%	N/A
ISSUES CLOSED FOR NEW ACCOUNTS				
ORDINARY	£500 to under £2,500	1.20%	1.20%	1.04%
	£2,500 to under £10,000	1.60%	1.59%	1.27%
	£10,000 to under £25,000	1.90%	1.89%	1.51%
	£25,000 up to £150,000	2.00%	2.00%	1.67%
REGULAR	up to £150,000	1.80%	1.30%	1.04%
SEVEN DAY	£500 to under £2,500	1.20%	1.21%	1.06%
	£2,500 to under £10,000	1.60%	1.60%	1.30%
	£10,000 to under £150,000	2.00%	2.00%	1.80%
	£150,000 up to £150,000	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
TWO YEAR A/Cs (10 day interest)	Balance under £500	1.17%	1.17%	0.95%
	£500 to under £2,500	1.60%	1.59%	1.26%
	£2,500 to under £5,000	1.90%	1.89%	1.44%
	£5,000 to under £10,000	2.00%	2.00%	1.60%
	£10,000 to under £25,000	2.00%	2.00%	1.60%
	£25,000 to under £50,000	2.00%	2.00%	1.60%
	£50,000 up to £200,000	2.00%	2.00%	1.60%
PREMIUM	£500 to under £2,500	2.50%	2.49%	1.90%
	£2,500 to under £5,000	3.00%	3.00%	2.40%
	£5,000 to under £10,000	4.00%	4.00%	3.20%
	£10,000 to under £25,000	5.10%	5.04%	4.22%
	£25,000 to under £50,000	5.50%	5.45%	4.52%
	£50,000 to under £100,000	5.80%	5.75%	4.77%
	£100,000 up to £200,000	6.14%	6.01%	4.91%
WEEKLY YIELD	£500 to under £2,500	2.80%	2.76%	2.24%
	£2,500 up to £200,000	3.10%	3.06%	2.46%
MAGNUM	£500 to under £2,500	2.50%	2.48%	2.00%
	£2,500 to under £5,000	3.00%	3.17%	2.54%
	£5,000 to under £10,000	3.50%	3.57%	2.86%
	£10,000 to under £25,000	3.80%	3.86%	3.08%
	£25,000 up to £200,000	4.50%	4.55%	3.64%
TROPIC	£500 to under £2,500	3.20%	3.22%	2.60%
	£2,500 to under £5,000	3.60%	3.67%	2.88%
	£5,000 to under £10,000	3.80%	3.81%	3.05%
	£10,000 to under £25,000	4.30%	4.30%	3.41%
	£25,000 to under £50,000	5.15%	5.09%	4.01%
	£50,000 up to £200,000	5.80%	5.67%	4.66%
TESSA SELECT	90 DAYS NOTICE	6.50%	8.50%	N/A
TESSA ELITE	60 DAYS NOTICE	6.50%	8.50%	N/A
ANTICIPATED TESSAs	Balance under £1,000	2.45%	2.45%	1.96%
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Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, recalls a lunchtime discussion with Diana about memos, mistresses and the media

A Perrier with the Princess

From the pavement where I was standing, in the covered passageway to the restaurant in Park Lane, there was not a paparazzo to be seen. Yet, according to the manager who had brought us the warning message, there was a pack of them out there.

Inside, sitting at the table where we had just finished lunch, was a worried waitress and the Princess of Wales. Outside, I was left looking through the haze of fumes to Marble Arch and back, unable to see the slightest bulge of Japanese plastic, the faintest glint of lens, the least sound of Italian-speaking, motorbike-driving paparazzi.

Somewhat shamefacedly, I returned to the table. Just as a precaution *The Times* driver was contacted and sent round to a side entrance. The Princess continued calmly to sip her bottled water and talk about herself, her husband, his family, her work, her problems and the complex cat's-cradle which the media wove between them all.

The date was May 18, 1994, not the worst of days for the then wife of the Prince of Wales but not a good day either. Even when she arrived at the restaurant, she had worn a quick smile and a bad-news frown. There was no preamble. Her face was stretched into the faintest pattern of lines and circles and her question was wholly rhetorical: "Well, do we know how this particular story got into the papers this morning?"

She did know. The subject of the day was the Princess's "grooming expenses" which, according to the *Daily Mail* and others, were higher than £3,000 a week. "My husband said it at a dinner party last week, where it got to Ross Benson and to Nigel Dempster and now there's all this stuff," she complained. Most of the "stuff" had been helpful hints from journalists about how much her various suits and shoes might have cost and how readers might replicate them at lower prices. "No one mentions all

THIS stuff," she smiled dryly, "the bracelet at Christmas for me and the necklace, bought at the same time on the same bill from the same shop, which I never see."

I paused — in some surprise. We had spoken for barely five minutes. It was already clear that this was not to be a wide-ranging conversation. Whatever else is said about Diana, Princess of Wales, in this dreadful week, let it not be said that she lacked sophistication about the media, her use of it and its use of her. She could be as "on message" as the most disciplined determined New Labour apparatchik. She was as charming that day as everyone always says that she is. But she did not move outside the lines that she had most clearly defined.

Inside those lines were the very aspects of her life which most people keep outside in discussion with newspaper editors — her husband, his mistress, her in-laws, her own fragile sense of herself. Within minutes I felt I was talking to someone I knew. By the time that she had toyed her way through her foie gras and lamb, I knew things about her that I did not know about my closest friends.

I should admit now that, before this lunch, I had a very low level of interest in what I would have called at that time "our Royal soap opera". I assumed, wrongly, that a large amount of the journalism generated by the juvenile Windsors was misleading, false, fourth-hand, or worse. I did not immediately accept the analysis which she set out with such care. But this was long before the *Panorama* interview. To read what seemed like recycled gossip about iconic characters was one thing. To hear so directly from the central player was quite another. I

presume that many others in our business had the same experience.

The Princess complained of how her husband's family divided the charity world between its long-established members — a Duchess for hospices, a Duke for animals, a Princess for children. Occasionally twisting the stem of an empty glass, she described how hard it was for her to enter where her real interests lay and where the real demand for her was so high.

I had not expected her to be fond of the Dumbleby biography of her husband. But it was different again to hear her views directly. "Did you know that it originally was supposed to contain nothing about our relationship at all? How were readers supposed to think that the children came? By immaculate conception?"

"By divine right of kings," I ventured, trying with difficulty to enter into the spirit of this dialogue. "Oh great, by DI-vine right," she giggled. "That's just what did happen."

The speed with which she ran through her list of subjects would not have disgraced a bank chairman anxious to catch the Ascot train. One moment she was on the subject of John Major's allegedly feeble response to the "could Camilla be queen?" question: "Major and my husband are both very alike, quite BE these days, always seeing each other." The next moment it was how photographers could help her to present her case to the people. Next it was how stuffiness and protocol prevented her from going to John Smith's funeral: "It may not have been a full state

occasion but it became a powerful public event and no one from the Royal Family was there."

"Did you object or try to explain that to anyone?" I asked. "No, it would be awful to have been turned down twice," she said.

Underlying everything was her sense of her personal contact, through the media, with the British people and the family's fear of that. "My husband's father once sent me a long formal letter setting out the duties of the Princess of Wales. There was 'much more to it than being popular', he said. I sent him back a longer one in reply. He sent me a shorter one — and so on until I finally signed off with 'it's been so nice getting to know you like this'. One day those letters will all be found in the archives. So will the memos by which my husband and

I communicate too. Can you believe it?"

She made it clear that she alone, she felt, could manage her image, her job and her family. She felt that her husband's friends were manipulating the press against her — as they had done on this very day — and that her only recourse was to fight like with like. And on this day too, she had a plan.

To my horror she began to set out a complicated story about how she had helped a tramp who had fallen into the Regent's Park canal and was going to see him in hospital that afternoon. This "Diana rescues tramp" story was new to me. But I had missed enough "royal exclusives" in my life to be far from sure that I had not just somehow missed

this one too.

That prospect obviously worried her as well. I did not seem interested enough. Some bits of her story did not fit together as well as a true story should. Yet it seemed churlish to cross-examine a Princess who, in any case, had such a clear and crowded agenda of her own.

It was just at this moment — "at we were saved by the waitress and her warning that the newspaper paparazzi — with their special guides to pricing dresses, shoes and hats — were gathered outside the main restaurant door for her exit."

The Times car was at the side. We both slipped out of the door — and into the back seat. "University College Hospital," I said and we drove back across Park Lane. I began to explain to our passenger that this rose was all rather pointless since no paparazzi were anywhere to be seen. Then she pointed to the wooded area in the central reservation of the road. First one lens caught the light. Then another behind a low branch, another on a thick trunk and others she said that she saw up in the trees. There was one man that she recognised, another that she began to wave to before the moment had passed and the car was on its way to the tramp.

There was then a sharp banging on the top of the car. I started with alarm. The Princess was much calmer. Sitting six feet above the road, holding no camera that either of us could see, a unicyclist was correcting his balance with a rest upon our roof.

Later that day a royal messenger delivered a thick cream letter, thanking me for the "rescue" in an airy open hand. "Today of all days it meant a great deal to me not to be photographed." The next day the newspapers carried full accounts of how the Princess had saved the tramp. *The Times* carried the story too, though without any briefing from me. It seemed perhaps the least interesting part of what the Princess had said.

charity, nor pose for any released photographs until they are 18 (with, again, limited exposure until they are 21). This may be a PR loss to the Royal Family but given what has happened this week, the whole strategy of the family as a glitzy "firm" ought to be rethought, and the balance of PR and privacy reconsidered.

Some media people will think me crazy to suggest this: they have been kind enough to say so already. It will be argued that the nation has a "right" to see the future heir to the throne. But that is creepy, disingenuous nonsense: there is an immediate and readily available for photography and interview at countless public occasions. The nation must make do with him.

There will also be portentous voices which will say that it is vital for the young Princess to be "groomed" for public appearances and duties during their minority, and that is even more nonsensical. The two members of the Royal Family who have carried out their public duties with most flair and popularity in this century are the Queen Mother — who never did any of it until her marriage — and Diana, Princess of Wales, who was a nursery-school assistant until she was 14. If the argument is that the boys must "get used" to constant exposure and its effects, I think they have already done that. If the argument is the robust line touted about by big, tough tabloid editors, that they must "get used to handling it" — for God's sake, how cruel can you get?

So offer Diana one last tribute, and her family a small atonement. Agree that after the funeral, there is no need for anybody but their friends, schoolmates and families to see or hear about the two Princes again until they are adults. Fit to take on the strange, dangerous world they were born to. Let us simply have annual confirmation in the Christmas broadcast that they are well. It would be a grand gesture, and whatever it takes — law, self-restraint, shame, high-level meetings — it can only be worth it. It is the decent thing to do.

It could also offer the only chance we have that Prince (then King) William will ever, his whole life long, begin to forgive and to trust the fourth estate of his realm.

Leave the boys alone to mourn

William and Harry deserve total privacy until they come of age

The funeral will be for all of us, the people and the media as well as the true family. Earl Spencer was right to say that Diana, Princess of Wales, was more importantly part of a family: mother, sister, daughter. But on Saturday at Westminster Abbey the nation needs to give a formal tribute. We are touched too deeply to be excluded.

It will not be an easy event to organise: Britain has a sure touch with such things, but how do you combine decent formality with a fit remembrance of the informal Princess? Nothing military is apt, nor any heavy velvet pomp of monarchy; massed voices and high Anglican psalmody should be balanced with music and words more simple and personal. Yet not too personal: somehow at the heart of this great public funeral the family grief must be kept private. Families of lesser figures often keep funerals small and close, and hold a memorial service for colleagues many weeks later. This useful separation of private and public grief is not available to the Spencer and Windsor families now, and that is another hard thing they must bear.

But there is something we could offer in return. A solid promise, backed by any necessary sanctions: a small gesture of atonement for a life and death cursed by intrusion. We should promise, from now on, to keep away — and look away — from her boys. Not for a month or two, but until they are men. I propose that the Princes William and Harry should now be a taboo

subject for all media until each is 18. From 18 to 21 they should have a lesser, but still exceptional, right to privacy. Whatever awaits them in adolescence — from girlfriends to hairstyles, from driving tests to cherry brandy — these two should be offered a gift: an unprecedented freedom from reporting.

Ban photos, gossip and comment. Media pressure is often talked about as if it were just a matter of photographs: wordy journalists love to condemn, with orotund glibness, their camera-wielding colleagues. But the fact is that words do as much damage. Which do you think the late Princess hated most: the pictures, in which she generally looked wonderful, or the catty, sniping, scolding columnists? Do you think there was no pressure and no misery in the lying gossip, the prurient speculation, and the nonsensical outbreaks of "cultural analysis" in which she was often confused with Marilyn Monroe (a promiscuous, drugged, sad case who never studied a landmine report or visited a hospice in her life)?

Do you think she would have enjoyed the ridiculous parallel drawn in a book published this week, interpreting her choice of a white dress for a party as an identification with Dickens's Miss Havisham? Do you think public figures do not suffer personally from the habit which even good newspapers have developed, of printing the impertinent speculations of media psychiatrists who

ought to be struck off for pretending to use their medical training on a patient they have never met?

The boys, after their mother's catastrophe, deserve better. In a perfect world, every editor — from *Smash Hits* to *Panorama* — would promise from this moment to leave them entirely alone, photographically and journalistically, while they grow up. No insulting platitudes about "the grieving process", no opera glasses trained on their faces at the funeral, and in months to come no pictures captioned "Sad Harry learns to smile again". No lifestyle features, no gatefold pin-ups for the bedrooms of morose teenage girls, no reporting of their inevitable embarrassing stumbles on the road to adulthood. In two years' time it should be possible to pass the Princes in the street and not to recognise them.

I feel strongly about this at the

moment, having spent the week before the tragedy on a sailing boat with two 14-year-old boys. Both are as adamant as Ayatollahs that Diana's sons deserve and need a total, prolonged, guaranteed news blackout. "And be careful," one

Libby Purves

admonished me, "that when you write your piece saying that, you don't write anything about them by accident." So I hardly dare observe that Prince William is already known to dislike publicity and

would most likely welcome entire freedom from it, even more than ordinary boys like them.

Of course it is not a perfect world but a commercial one. Despite the emotion of this week, it is ludicrously unlikely that any editor will voluntarily and unilaterally give up such a fascinating subject; not if there is a risk that competing editors will not. So what we need, in this unprecedented situation, is an unprecedented law. Some combination of the Children Act and the existing mechanisms of injunction and embargo could be invoked quite easily. After all, our legal system under the last Government seemed to find no trouble at all in bringing in a "Mary Bell order" preventing young Flora Keays, daughter of Sara, from being mentioned. Even her mother was not allowed to speak her name to anybody, "except", the judge kindly

said, "perhaps your cleaner." When it comes to banning publication, the British experience seems to be that where there's a will, there's a way.

Mr Blair and the Prince of Wales are on friendly terms: they could together devise a blanket of total privacy for the Princes, and even extend it with reasonable efficiency to foreign publications. If it were known that any periodical which used a photograph or report on the young Princes' lives during their minority would risk having its owner, staff and other contributors banned permanently from Britain, or arrested if resident here, the game might lose its charm.

Of course, the Royal Family would have to join the self-denying ordinance. It could be decided that, in these exceptional circumstances, neither of the Prince of Wales's sons should perform any public duties, nor be visible patrons of any



Shrink to fit

FRAUD's dull stench pervades the world of academic psychology thanks to the author Ian McEwan. In his latest book, *Enduring Love*, McEwan tells the story of a disturbed young man's homoerotic and quasi-religious yearnings for another man, a manifestation of the psychological condition, de Cierambault's Syndrome. Hardly bedtime reading.

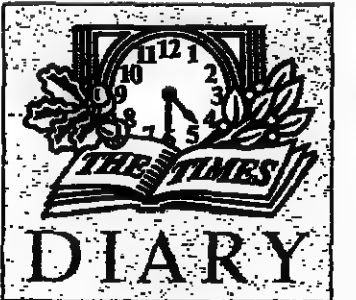


Homoerotic: Ian McEwan

To lend authenticity to the hypothesis within his novel, McEwan added an appendix, a paper by two psychologists: Dr Robert Wenn and Dr Antonia Camia. In it they examine a homosexual variant of the syndrome similar to that affecting the character in *Enduring Love*.

McEwan, however, fails to make it clear in the book whether the paper is real or fictional. "I devised what they call in Hollywood a back story for Wenn and Camia: that they are a couple of homosexuals, who are only interested in homoerotic behaviour. If you look at their other published paper, it is called *Homosexual erotomania*, and was published in *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, which is a real journal and the most obscure that I could find. I submitted the fictional paper for publication but now I feel terribly guilty because the journal I sent it to has written back saying that it is considering it for publication."

For those editors of the psychological journals who may have



received the Wenn-Camia paper and are considering publishing it, a suggestion: take the surnames of the two psychologists, shuffle round the letters and see if you can find the name of a certain well-known novelist.

Ward off

WHEN the Bishop of Coventry, the Rt Rev Simon Barrington-Ward, doffs his mitre for the last time on October 1, he will leave the Church of England, for the first time anyone can remember, without an old Etonian bishop.

Like a footballer with dodgy knees, however, life for Barrington-

Ward will continue in the ecclesiastical second division. "I will have been bishop at Coventry for almost exactly 12 years," says Barrington-Ward. "It is hoped that I will be invited to assist at Ely when I retire." In a symbol of the modern C of E, he will find on the assistant bishop benches two more Old Etonian ex-bishops: the Rt Rev Ronald Bowlby, formerly Bishop of Southwark now assisting at Lichfield, and the Rt Rev Simon Phipps, once Bishop of Lincoln and now running the touchlines of Chichester.

After two years of campaigning, Brigitte Bardot has secured a ban on the annual rooster-slaughtering rite in the Hungarian hamlet of Csurgonyagmarton. After fierce letters from the actress, the beleaguered mayor, Iren Csire, was forced to compromise. "Miss Bardot got us so much negative press that we have decided to continue our Transylvanian game using clay roosters instead."

Shy Fry

TO Venice where the British comic

actor and writer Stephen Fry yesterday described the acute embarrassment of undressing for the love scenes in his new movie about Oscar Wilde.

Speaking at the Venice Film Festival, where *Wilde* was being screened, Fry said: "The peculiar thing about acting is that if you talk and show your face on screen, people think you are that character. If you start showing your whole body, people think, 'Oh, there's Stephen Fry naked'."



"For a week before, I was a-blubber with terror that I would have to reveal my nipples."

In a tone that did not suggest false modesty, he added: "I think I share with Wilde a low sense of physical self-esteem."

Role model

AUSTRALIAN clothes horse Elle Macpherson has incurred the wrath of the Western Australian Muslim community and morals campaigners, outraged that a pregnant, unmarried woman is being presented as a role model.

The perennially tanned Macpherson and her remarkable acting ability are the new features of a Western Australian Tourism Commission advertising campaign. And while the adverts were made long before the model fell pregnant to her French banking boyfriend, Arky Buisson, her critics are convinced that an unmarried, pregnant woman does not make a healthy role model.

"Elle is in a position of responsibility," said Australian Family Association president, John Barich. "It's a scandal."



Outrage: Elle Macpherson

As opposed to her nude film scenes, *Playboy* centrefolds and countless lingerie catalogues, which are, by exclusion, apparently acceptable social behaviour.

P.H.S



LET THE MOURNERS COME

A state occasion for a Princess of peace

Every life is unique, but not every death is mourned by an entire nation. Diana, Princess of Wales, was irreplaceable. Her funeral must allow the people to participate. Just as the Princess held a unique place in the hearts of her countrymen, so her obsequies should, as the Palace rightly acknowledged yesterday, be public and unique. So profound has been the outpouring of grief, so exceptional the sense of loss felt by millions, that only a procession and funeral open to all, reported and broadcast throughout the world, will provide a much-needed national catharsis. The private burial in the Spencers' vault at Althorp should ensure that the natural desire of the Princess's family and friends to take leave of her away from the crowds is respected.

Westminster Abbey is the right place for the Princess's funeral, and not only for the practical reason that Parliament Square and Whitehall can accommodate vast throngs of mourners. St Paul's Cathedral, where she was married, would have evoked painful memories. A private funeral at Windsor or Althorp would scarcely have been appropriate to a woman who belonged not just to the Royal Family, but to humanity at large. The Princess's magnanimity deserves a magnificent gesture in return.

No other country has a royal shrine to compare with Westminster: a holy place since the 7th century, built by Edward the Confessor, England's only royal saint, beautified by everyone from Henry VIII to Wren and Hawksmoor. In the timeless solemnity of the Abbey, sacred not only to kings but also to poets and statesmen, the Princess's restless spirit can be at peace with the watching world. There she will be reunited for all time with the nation which once hoped to see her crowned there as queen.

Saturday's ceremony will not, strictly speaking, be a state funeral. Such formal obsequies have their origin in a divine-right monarchy for which continuity was all-important. In Stuart England, wax effigies

of dead kings were still integral to the symbolism of succession. Only in modern times have a few commoners been accorded the honour. Churchill's, at St Paul's, was a splendidly sombre, unforgettable occasion, a kind of farewell not only to the man but to an imperial past. The Duke of Wellington's state funeral evoked some of Tennyson's noblest lines:

Bury the Great Duke
With an empire's lamentation.
Let us bury the Great Duke
To the noise of the mourning of a mighty nation...

This case is different. Though the Princess of Wales has left no less indelible a mark on the public memory than have past heroes, she won no wars — indeed, her campaign against landmines symbolised the anti-militaristic ethos of her generation. She wanted the monarchy to reflect a more pacific, though not pacifist, era. A gun-carriage might not be the most fitting vehicle for her coffin. Indeed, this funeral ought as far as possible to combine the immemorial rites of Church and State with the informality and modernity that were the Princess's hallmarks. Her charitable causes, however controversial, deserve a place in the ceremony; so do her favourite music or poetry.

The British pride themselves on their talent for improvised ceremonial. The Victorians were famed in their invention of new traditions. The Royal Family has made a good start by heeding the Prime Minister's request that this should be a "people's funeral". A seamless fusion of the universal and the personal would be a worthy tribute to the most spontaneous public figure of our time. Not Tennyson's pomp and circumstance, but Auden's sad lines, memorably quoted in the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, strike the right note:

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

TURMOIL IN ASIA

Sensible policies in China and Japan should stop the rot

The turmoil in Asian currencies set off by the devaluation of the Thai baht started as a small financial earthquake in a country of which most people knew little. In the past few weeks, however, the panic in Thailand has spread to every one of its southeast Asian neighbours, as the currencies and stockmarkets of Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines and even Singapore and Hong Kong have fallen like dominoes. Could this regional panic turn into a serious threat to the global economy?

In the past few months stockmarkets around the world have been looking overdue for a correction. The turmoil in Asia could act as the catalyst. While advanced economies can usually take stockmarket crises and devaluations in their stride — witness the Wall Street crash in 1929 or the devaluation of the pound on Black Wednesday — the present crises in Asia are likely to have much graver effects on the local economies. As in Japan in the late 1980s and in Mexico earlier this decade, many Asian businesses, as well as governments, had embarked on extravagant and uneconomic investment projects and financed them with imprudent short-term borrowing in foreign currencies. Insolvencies are now inevitable and will hit investment, jobs and growth, just as they did in Japan and Mexico.

The inevitable squeeze on investment and consumer spending in Asia will be painfully felt by exporters and bankers in the rest of the world. But the scale of this threat must be seen in proportion. Although southeast Asia is a populous and rapidly growing region, its biggest countries, Indonesia, Thailand

and the Philippines, are still so poor and backward that they account for a very modest share of world output and trade — less, even in aggregate, than such individual Western countries as Britain or France.

The most serious global threat from the Asian crisis arises from the possibility that it might eventually engulf Japan or China. Whether this threat materialises depends not on events in Thailand or Malaysia, but on the actions of China and Japan themselves. If the Chinese authorities were foolish enough to follow the Malaysian and example and react with financial controls, backed up by xenophobic rhetoric, to what could be an inevitable correction in the overheated Hong Kong stockmarket, the result could certainly be a serious problem for world finance — and an outright disaster for both Hong Kong and China. If, on the other hand, the authorities reacted rationally and calmly, they could even turn this crisis to their advantage.

The Chinese Government could show its genuine commitment to a capitalist economy by allowing Hong Kong's financial markets to operate freely, taking any fall in equity prices on the chin. Japan could respond to the problems in Asia by temporarily reversing the excessive tax increases which have done far more damage to its economy than the problems in Asia's leading Governments would go a long way to restoring confidence throughout the region. It could ensure that the southeast Asian troubles remained a case of "small earthquake in Thailand, not many killed".

OPEN ALL HOURS

Clinton's White House has broken all fundraising norms

Americans, it can safely be said, have not been absorbed by the various congressional investigations into campaign finance irregularities in the 1996 elections. In fact, public interest has been minimal. The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee has operated in front of a largely invisible audience. The usually vigilant domestic press has not, on the whole, ignited enthusiasm in the subject either.

This is in part the responsibility of the politicians themselves. When the hearings opened the committee chairman, Senator Fred Thompson, promised to expose a Chinese government plan to move money into American politics. Had the Senate succeeded in outlining such a scheme then even a cynical public might have been captivated. No such plot has been exposed.

In fairness, the Senate has faced considerable handicaps. Most of the cast of characters — a motley mixture of Arkansas and Asia — have either left the country or exercised the constitutional right to silence. That reticence has frustrated Congress. One such figure, Johnny Chung, will not speak to the Senate but has no apparent qualms in discussing his role on American television. The Clinton White House, he had learned, was like the subway network: coins had to be placed in slots for the system to function. That brazen assessment stunned even partisan supporters of the President.

It also reflects on the real significance of what has been revealed so far. The malign influence of overseas interests remains mere

conjecture, but it is clear that from the Republican victory in the 1994 Congressional elections onwards, Mr Clinton, his campaign and the Democratic National Committee shamelessly exploited the White House for all it was worth.

The latest reports of the exploding cost of entertainment there, much of which was for political ends, simply fits this pattern. The President, who came to office promising new and higher standards of ethics and criticising the "corruption" of the Reagan-Bush years, has certainly set new standards but hardly higher ones. Views from Air Force One and visits to the Lincoln bedroom of the White House were all available to those willing to donate their dollars. Mr Clinton did not run a cheap subway system.

Nor has the President appeared especially apologetic. Instead he has blamed "the system" and claimed that his campaign did little that others had not done previously. He is wrong on both counts. Other presidents, including Ronald Reagan and George Bush, lived under the same system without offering the appearance that the Oval Office was for hire. In its staggering unconcern with the background and motive of its contributors, the Clinton White House has broken all established fundraising norms. This is likely to become more obvious as Congress resumes its work this month. These facts may not seem as sensational as a conspiracy by China to acquire influence in Washington. But they deserve a profile much higher than they have at present.

Harassment and use of privacy law

From Mr Alasdair G. T. Pepper

Sir, French privacy laws, said to be among the strongest in the world (report, September 1) did not help Diana, Princess of Wales. Tough in principle the French laws may be, but regrettably the French courts have not operated them to deter the paparazzi.

The pictures of the teetotal Duchess of York with John Bryan were taken without their consent while they were on private property by a prying photographer, who then sold them for many hundreds of thousands of pounds to a worldwide market.

The Duchess of York sued for infringement of her privacy. As part of the claim the court was invited to order the photographer and his agency to hand over all proceeds from the sale of the photographs, following the principle that no one should be allowed to profit from an unlawful act. However, the French court declined to make an award on this basis and instead awarded simply compensatory damages in the region of £60,000 (limited to the compensation for the infringement in France only).

The message was clear, and perhaps encouraged the paparazzi, rather than deterred their harassment of public figures for valuable photographs.

In this country we are long overdue a privacy law and, if it is to provide real protection to those in the public eye from those at the gutter end of the press, it must have real teeth to enable the courts to ensure that those who take intrusive photographs, or publish them without a genuine public interest in doing so, know that infringement of privacy, like crime, does not pay.

Yours faithfully,
ALASDAIR PEPPER
(Partner)
Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners
(Solicitors)
75 Shoe Lane, EC4
September 1

From Dr William Kingston

Sir, Comment after the recent tragic crash in Paris seems to assume that if the paparazzi cannot be disciplined even by France's strict laws, nothing can be done. This is not so.

The high prices for photographs and stories are obtainable only because of the exclusive privileges granted to sellers and the media by copyright law. It is not just absurd, but obscene, that the photograph of the dying Princess in the wrecked car which is reputedly being touted to editors should be protected under this law as an "artistic work".

Patents cannot be granted for any invention that is "against public policy". Copyright privilege could similarly be denied to anything which results from any invasion of privacy.

This would require international agreement to be effective, but the Berne Convention exists for that very purpose. Article 2(8) already excludes "news of the day" from copyright protection. An appropriate brief addition to this article could quickly bring about widespread changes in the statutes of the few countries which really count as far as these markets are concerned.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM KINGSTON,
University of Dublin,
School of Business Studies,
Trinity College, Dublin,
September 1

From Mr Walter S. Greenwood

Sir, Amid the public anguish at Princess Diana's death and the fury at what may have helped to cause it, it is understandable that there will be calls for a specific law of privacy to be introduced in Britain. Questions will also be raised about how the media could then still be allowed to disclose matters of genuine public concern.

As for the conduct said to have occurred in Paris, Britain already has the Protection from Harassment Act, which became law only this year. This makes it a criminal offence to pursue a course of conduct on at least two occasions which causes harassment if a reasonable person would so think. Harassment includes causing alarm or distress, and civil actions for damages may also be pursued.

Yours sincerely,
WALTER GREENWOOD
(Joint Editor,
McNee's Essential Law
for Journalists),
7 The Gables, Newcastle upon Tyne,
September 1

From Mr Timothy
Lawson-Crutenden

Sir, The civil provisions of the Protection from Harassment Act, which received the Royal Assent on March 21, have not yet been fully implemented. They make it a civil offence to harass, against which an injunction can be obtained.

Diana, Princess of Wales, arguably died after press harassment in a civil sense. It is not now time for the Government to bring the Act fully into force?

Yours etc,
A. T. LAWSON-CRUTENDEN
(Co-author,
Blackstone's Guide to the Protection
from Harassment Act 1997),
Lawson-Crutenden & Co
(Solicitors),
10-11 Gray's Inn Square, WCI,
September 1

Fitting memorials as tribute to the life of a Princess

From Mr Stephen Bungay

Sir, Still in some shock at the news which opened the day, one braces oneself for the week to come.

The saturation coverage will continue. Last evening at 6pm the same things were being said on television and radio as had been said at 9am. It is ritual. It is how the media mourn. Perhaps repetition is therapeutic.

Diana, Princess of Wales, was a product of the media. The media turned her into an icon of such power that she could initiate international progress on landmines where many others had failed because they lacked her power. Inasmuch as she was a power for good she owed that power to the celebrity media gave her.

However, the media could have conferred that power on her without telephoto lenses, hidden cameras, snipers in hideouts and high-speed chases. In using these methods they turned her life into a misery. The actions of those who hounded her may have been legal but they were wrong.

The problem is that the unprincipled people concerned seem not to care what harm they did her, or believe that there were any constraints on their actions other than those imposed by law. Following their logic, should we fill the gap left by morality with legality and try to legislate for decency?

The real answer is for people not to persecute the innocent and for the

press to shun anyone who does, not because it is illegal but because it causes unjustifiable misery.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN BUNGAY,
Walters, Whistlers Court,
The Ridge, Woldingham, Surrey,
September 1

From Mr Quentin Goggs

Sir, All of us are devastated by Princess Diana's death. What a waste that such a young life that had so much to contribute to all our wellbeing should have been cut short. Why can God do that to us?

My wife and I asked exactly those questions when we lost our son, Tim, in 1992 in Afghanistan, when he was clearing mines for the same MALO Trust that we saw Diana visiting in Angola.

Tim's own response came in his will when we opened it. He left his student house in Newcastle, bought on a 95 per cent mortgage paid off by the insurance after his death, to Christian Aid to start a project in Afghanistan for rehabilitating the victims of landmines. We, his parents, have built on that since his death, and last year went out to Herat to see the Christian Aid projects on the ground.

We believe that the nation should do the same for Diana. Her interests were helping disadvantaged young people and the victims of landmines and AIDS.

What better memorial, as Mr Don Leeson's letter today suggests, than a Princess Diana Fund to continue her marvellous work by supporting existing charities which work in these fields?

Yours etc,
QUENTIN GOGGS,
Easterton Manor, Devizes, Wiltshire,
September 1

From Group Captain P. F. Rogers,
RAF (retd)

Sir, Yesterday's tragic event brings to mind the grief suffered by the Belgian nation when their Queen, the former Princess Astrid of Sweden, died in a car crash on August 29, 1935. The Belgians then issued a series of black-bordered mourning stamps portraying Queen Astrid. They remain among the most beautiful postage stamps ever issued.

A surcharge was applied to their face value, with the proceeds going to charity. Would it not be a fitting tribute to Princess Diana, and an appropriate way for the nation to show its appreciation for her life and works, for the Post Office to do the same, donating the proceeds to the charities she served so devotedly?

Yours sincerely,
PETER ROGERS,
50 Conyers Way, Great Barton,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk,
September 1

Throwing light on M15 activities

From Mr Bruce Kent

Sir, Mr David Winnick, MP (letter, August 28), raises the important point that the intelligence and security committee reports not to Parliament but to the Prime Minister.

There is a now standard response to exposes of dubious M15 activity. It is usually admitted that at certain times in the past some officers did get a bit out of control and acted off their own bat.

There follow demands for proper governmental control over the security services. By implication all will then be well. This is a dangerously inadequate prescription.

When in 1983 CND members had their phones tapped, this was not the action of some rogue section of M15 pursuing its paranoid political fantasies. It was the direct result of government policy and part of a counter-CND propaganda offensive. Selective, often inaccurate, M15-derived information was used for party political purposes.

This was not the first instance, nor is it likely to be the last, of government misuse of the security services. Prudence suggests that not just scrutiny but control is vested in Parliament as a whole rather than Government.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE KENT
(Vice-President,
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament,
162 Holloway Road, N7,
August 29

From Mr Chapman Pincher

Sir, In his letter David Winnick, the Labour MP, recycled the myth that in the 1970s some M15 officers were "totally out of control", being "motivated by political spite and malice against a Labour Government". This myth originated with a claim by the disaffected officer, Peter Wright, that about thirty M15 officers were involved in a plot to undermine Harold Wilson and his Government.

What Mr Winnick may not know is that after the international sales success of his book *Spycatcher*, Wright admitted on a *Panorama* programme, in 1988, that the allegation was untrue and that it had been inserted in the book to increase sales. Under questioning on *Panorama*, Wright reduced the number of M15 officers who had been strongly anti-

Labour to "about eight" of whom only two — one of them being Wright himself — would ever have taken any action had the opportunity arisen. In fact, nobody took any action.

Previously, in 1980, when interviewing Wright while researching my book, *Their Trade is Treachery*, I had asked him about the supposed plot — of which I had heard reports — and he denied any knowledge of it.

Yours faithfully,
CHAPMAN PINCHER,
16 Church Street,
Kimbury, Hungerford, Berkshire,
August 28

From Mr Peter Noorlander

Sir, Regarding the debate on M15 (reports, August 28 and 29) I suggest that certain aspects of the Canadian system be considered.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Review Committee is mandated to review the security services' activities to ensure that they "do not involve an unreasonable or unnecessary exercise of its powers". Unlike its UK parliamentary counterpart, the Canadian committee can therefore review individual operations and has full access to all relevant security-service documents.

This enables the Canadian system to balance a constitutionally protected right to privacy against law enforcement requirements, something which the UK Government should be working towards.

Yours sincerely,
PETER NOORLANDER
(Researcher),
Justice,
59 Carter Lane, EC4,
August 29

From Professor Emeritus Peter Harris

Sir, Some of those writing to you who condemn and belittle M15 and M16 should also consider the painful dangers and sacrifices endured by the officers of our security services.

Their failings are well publicised; the successes are not. In espionage work it has well been said that there is nothing for the winner and disaster for the loser.

Yours etc,
D. B. HARRIS,
28 Queen Anne Square, Cardiff,
August 28

Fate of the Battersbys

From Mr A. G. Newton

Sir, It was interesting to read ("Mean Street revisited", Media, August 27) that the producer of *Coronation Street* has no intention of writing out the Battersby family, even though a recent poll showed that 97 per cent of viewers said they should go.

Such arrogance makes most strikingly the point that complaining to the media is a total waste of time. They are just as guilty as the Government in a patronising attitude of "we know best".

If the producer of *Coronation Street* is so concerned with "rough, tough realism" perhaps he should listen to real people.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN NEWTON,
Combe House, Bideford, Devon,
100336.1375@compuserve.com

Sporting psalm

From Mrs Patrick Bowring

Sir, Surely the "chase" in which the hart pants in Tate and Brady's hymn (letters, July 25, August 1, 11, 15, 26) is life; and as the animal needs water for its existence, so we all need God for our spiritual never-ending life.

Yours faithfully,
MARY BOWRING,
Rose Court, Sulhamstead, Berkshire,
August 26

In-cell television

From the General Secretary of the
Prison Governors Association

Sir, Ann Widdecombe (letter, August 26) now appears to be concerned over whether taxpayers' money should fund the expansion of access by prisoners to in-cell television.

May I point out that a Conservative-led home affairs committee recommended last March that the question of expanding in-cell television (as proposed by Sir John Larmont in his 1995 report on prison security) should be further explored.

As a hard-won privilege, more in-cell television will be a powerful incentive to behave for a population that will be spending more time locked up. The current intention is to recover from prisoners as much as possible of any expenditure, and the potential savings from improved behaviour are enormous.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID RODDAN,
General Secretary,
Prison Governors Association,
Room 409, Horseferry House,
Dean Ryle Street, SW1,
August 26

Business letters, page 31

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0171-762-5046.
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Tills apart

From Mr Colin Craskin

Sir, Although the Scots may not like it, there is an essential difference between English banknotes and Scottish ones (letters, August 26, 28). The Bank of England is the central bank of the whole United Kingdom. Its notes should therefore be available at all UK banks.

The Scottish banks are commercial banks — no different from other commercial banks — and some of them issue Scottish banknotes with the permission of the Bank of England. Although the value of these notes is the same as the corresponding English notes they have a different status.

When I was a boy in the 1940s English high-street banks, as always ready to make a penny out of doing nothing, used to charge commission of sixpence to change a Scottish £1 note.

No doubt when devolution comes about they will seize the opportunity to do that again.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN CRASKIN,
4 Highfield Comages,
Ingletown, North Yorkshire,
craskin@compuserve.com
August 28

From Professor Hector L. MacQueen

Sir, I suspect that the reason why Mr P. M. Barman's mother-in-law from Renfrewshire takes English currency when her when she travels south of the border (letter, August 26) is not just because she likes to do so as a personal whim, but because it can be almost impossible to persuade shopkeepers and other service providers in England that Scottish notes are money, even though they are not legal tender, and that Scottish banks honour their legally enforceable promises to pay.

The divisions in the United Kingdom are not solely the responsibility of the Scots.

Yours faithfully,
HECTOR L. MACQUEEN
(Professor of Private Law,
University of Edinburgh),
47 Falcon Gardens, Edinburgh 10,
hector.macqueen@ed.ac.uk
August 27

From Ms Rachel Lyle

Sir, Frequently my family and I have found ourselves at foreign currency desks in English banks as they, along with many establishments, do not recognise Northern Irish currency as legal tender.

This practice of non-recognition is annoying, time-consuming and at times can get downright nasty. However, I suppose that we should be thankful that the banks do not charge commission for replacing our notes with "legal" English ones.

Yours faithfully,
RACHEL H. LYLE,
29 Ballyholme Esplanade,
Bangor, Co Down,
August 26

Metric rain

From Mr Michael Hubble

Sir, May I ask the Meteorological Office now to give rainfall figures in litres per square metre (and not in inches or millimetres)?

This is the custom in other countries using the metric system, such as Spain, and is a much better way of reporting how much rain has actually fallen.

I have always thought that measuring rainfall in height is as daft as going into a pub and asking for six inches of beer.

Yours faithfully,
M. D. S. HUBBLE,
Advanced Performance Training SL,
Almagro 15,
28010 Madrid,
August 30

OBITUARIES

NIK BIRCH REYNARDSON

Nik Birch Reynardson, former Oxford county councillor and president of the Henley Conservative Association since 1993, died on August 6 aged 74. She was born on June 15, 1923.

A TIRELESS figure dedicated to the service of the county in which she lived for nearly 38 years, Nik Birch Reynardson could at first sight have been mistaken for a conventional product of the British class system. But that would have been to do her a great deal less than justice. The brisk, courageous determination she brought to every aspect of



living was originally reflected in the way as a child she tackled the challenge of tuberculosis.

The elder daughter of Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Humphreys, Nik Birch Reynardson spent her early years in India, where her father was serving at the time. At the age of six, as a result of a riding accident, she contracted tuberculosis and, having returned to England, spent the next seven years lying on her back encased in plaster from head to toe.

She was first sent to a TB sanatorium, where a governess gave her a good general educational grounding. But academic salvation came with her arrival at the home of two maiden aunts living in Kent (her parents were still in India). One of them had been made up for both herself and her niece in the dining room — and there she taught Nik an almost complete syllabus of subjects ranging from botany to history, languages to geography, music to mathematics.

So well did she do her job that at the age of 13 — though still on crutches — the young daughter of the Empire passed easily into St Mary's, Warrage, where she spent the next four years, even playing hockey on crutches in goal. Finally, however, she came to manage simply with the

made-up shoe that she wore for the rest of her life in order to cope with a faulty hip-bone.

Fortune then once again took a turn with her future. One school holiday the local MP came to call at her aunt's home and — struck by her determination and ability — insisted that she should be sent to a crammers to learn Ancient Greek. This she duly did, going up to Oxford in 1942 with an exhibition from St Hugh's College, where she took a good second in Philosophy Politics and Economics.

With the Second World War over, she then cast about for a job. It was typical of her lifelong concern for others that the one she chose should have been looking after Displaced Persons in Germany. After that came 12 months in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, serving on the staff of the Governor — where the atmosphere in those palmy, post-war days was presumably rather different from refugee camps in Germany. Her spell in Southern Rhodesia proved, however, to be her last paid job as in 1950 she married a friend she had made at university, Bill Birch Reynardson, a maritime lawyer, who lived near Thame in Oxfordshire.

But the energy that might have gone into a career was now merely diverted into raising her family and into a powerful amount of voluntary work. In 1967 she founded the South Oxfordshire Conservative Women's Advisory Committee, later being elected first for Chinnor and Tetworth and then for Thame onto the Oxfordshire County Council. A strong supporter of her local MP, the former Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, she eventually became president of the Henley Conservative Association, having served for many years as chairman of its Tetworth branch. She was, in turn, a member of the Oxfordshire District Health Authority and of the Oxford Regional Health Authority, subsequently becoming a trustee of the Nuffield Medical Trust.

She was a passionate Tory. But she also possessed a gift of listening, and her interest in other people always lay in what they wanted to say rather than in what she felt they ought to be told.

She and her husband lived in a lovely country house which they made into a welcoming family home surrounded by a beautiful garden on which for almost 40 years she lavished great affection.

She is survived by her husband Bill and a son and two daughters.

Dodi Fayed, a director of Harrods, died in the company of Diana, Princess of Wales, in a car crash in Paris on August 31 aged 42. He was born in Alexandria on April 15, 1955.

Until Dodi Fayed sprang startlingly into prominence in August as the latest man to become romantically associated with Diana, Princess of Wales, the name Fayed had signified exclusively his dynamic businessman father, Mohamed, to the British public. True, long before that point, Dodi Fayed was a well-established item among the international jet-set. He was a man whose wealth and *modus vivendi* — homes in London, Switzerland, New York, Los Angeles and the Scottish Highlands, fleets of fast cars and the use of the family yacht and executive jet — could gain him entry into any society. These qualities had seen him as the escort of some of the world's most desirable young women in the past two decades.

Yet, unlike his father, the charismatic owner of Harrods and energetic seeker after British citizenship, Dodi seemed to be driven by no particular demon. It was possible to describe him as a film producer; but his involvement in the film world consisted of a series of astute investments in successful projects rather than in a commitment to cinema as an art form. Thus his production company, Allied Stars, did very well from its 25 per cent stake in the Oscar-winning British-made 1994 Olympic film *Chariots of Fire* (1981). But it was one of a mere handful of sorties into the world of film production.

As his ample figure — familiar to tabloid readers in recent months adorning the decks of luxury yachts and speedboats — tended to emphasise, his métier was that of the playboy rather than the businessman. In this role, close friends loyally insist, he remained unspiced by what to most would be wealth beyond the dreams of avarice, retain-



ing a character of great sweetness whose relations with women were essentially chivalrous rather than overbearing. Indeed, as a number of his past paramours had sprung from the woodwork to proclaim otherwise, the former wife of his only marriage — an affair of remarkable brevity to the world's most glamorous women, he had been content to occupy a niche in the gossip columns which could only be counted a minor one.

Dodi Fayed was born the eldest of five children of Mohamed Al Fayed who, in those days, was still making his way in the commercial

world. His mother was Samira Kashoggi, sister of the arms dealer Adnan Kashoggi. The latter helped his brother-in-law to get on in the world by giving him charge of his furniture importing interests in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Dodi's parents split up while he was still a young child. Left in the custody of his father, he was to lead a somewhat rootless life: "home" from early on was, variously, boarding school in Switzerland, holiday houses in France and Egypt or yachts in and out of various Mediterranean harbours. There was a

period at Sandhurst, following which he was commissioned into the United Arab Emirates Air Force. But the military ethos was not for him. By this time his father's wealth was already substantially established, and the life of a playboy beckoned. The celebrity world was especially attractive to him and his film producing activities consorted well with it. Besides *Chariots of Fire*, he invested in the pop music film *Breaking Glass* (1980) and *The World According to Garp* (1982) among others.

The Hollywood ethos was highly congenial to him and his parties were always thickly wallpapered with showbiz personalities. He "dated" — as Americans put it — many of the most alluring women of this world: the actresses Brooke Shields, Brie Eklund and Patsy Kensit were mentioned in connection with him, as were models such as Marie Helvin, the singer Lynsey de Paul, Koo Stark and Princess Stephanie of Monaco. Attractive though he and his millions undoubtedly were, Dodi nevertheless negotiated many a romance without acquiring a bouncer, much less a black-guard's reputation. This was to change when his association with Diana, Princess of Wales — raised his "market value" in this regard and exposed him to the possibility of financial claims.

His only sortie into matrimony was in 1986, to the model Suzanne Gregard. The liaison was of that species of brevity which suggested little thought had gone into it — from the groom's side at any rate. Friends said it was a form of rebound from the death of his mother — always a close confidante — not long before. The divorce was no kissing contest either, and the bride walked off with a settlement supposedly in excess of £1 million. This left Dodi with a natural scepticism about the married state. For her part, his ex-wife was to speak of him magnanimously.

At about this time Dodi Fayed had first met the Princess of Wales, as she then still was. It was at a polo match between Harrods and the

Prince of Wales's team at Windsor. They were to meet occasionally thereafter. Mohamed Al Fayed knew Diana's father, Earl Spencer, and her stepmother, Raine, who is on the board of Harrods International.

Indeed, it may well have been the father who administered the impetus to his son to change the status of his relationship with the by then unattached and highly eligible ex-royal princess when he invited Diana and her sons William and Harry for a holiday on his yacht at St Tropez earlier this summer. At the end of it, Diana pronounced the holiday to be the best she had had in her life. Clearly this warm verdict had more than a little to do with the developing attraction she felt towards Dodi.

In any event, when the Princes William and Harry went north to Balmoral for their August break with their father, a repeat of the St Tropez holiday was offered to the Princess — this time to be *tête à tête* with Dodi. It was accepted with alacrity, and thanks to the exertions of pursuing freelance photographers — gratefully purchased and published by the now breast-beating tabloid press — was soon seen for what it clearly was, a fast-flowering and intimate romance.

Even the claims of an American model, Kelly Fisher, that Dodi was engaged to her, and that she would sue him for breach of promise, could not dampen the couple's ardour. After the Princess had taken stock of the situation with a friend, Rosa Monckton, the wife of the Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, on a holiday in Greece, she returned to Dodi Fayed at St Tropez. The media attention, this entailed projected Dodi at a stroke from a status which, while comfortable still allowed much privacy, into the incandescent glare of public scrutiny. It was while fleeing from this scrutiny, bleeding in the paparazzi who conceive it as their duty to bring lives such as theirs to popular notice, that he and the Princess met their deaths in Paris.

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DOUGLAS GRAY

Douglas Gray, record producer, film-maker and architect, died in Stirling on August 7 aged 74. He was born in Aberdeen on October 8, 1922.

DOUGLAS GRAY made an enormous and wide-ranging contribution to the arts in Scotland. He was a pioneering

independent record producer, setting up a small studio in his native Aberdeen at the end of the Second World War. For more than fifty years he built up a huge archive of Scottish songs, poems and literature — particularly the works of Robert Burns — recorded by the leading interpreters of the day when they were in their prime.

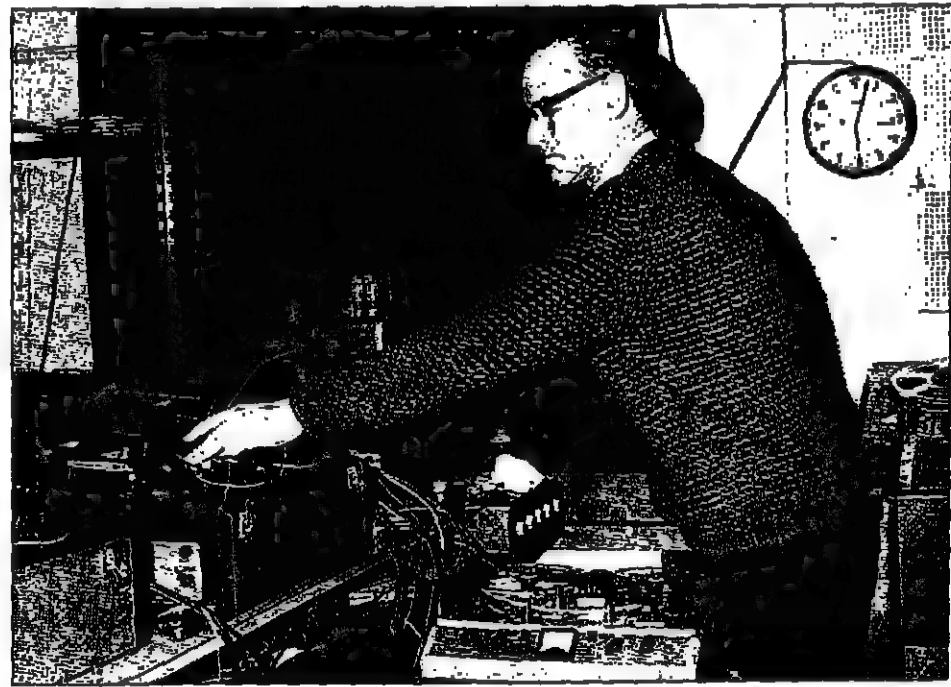
He did not do it for personal financial gain. A vast number of what would have been invaluable collectors' items were never commercially released; his primary concern was that they would be available for future generations.

A tall, serious-looking individual with a dry sense of humour, he was regarded by friends as a lovable eccentric. From Aberdeen Grammar School he went to Aberdeen University. There he took a first in economics, though he was to remain a hopeless businessman all his life. Something of a technical wizard, he was involved in top-secret radar work during the war.

For eight years he was assistant director of the Scottish Film Council. He set up Park Film Studios in Glasgow, and to finance himself he lectured in economics for a time in the extramural department of Glasgow University. While producing films, mainly documentaries, he continued to make records.

The artists he recorded included Jean Taylor Smith, Harold Whigham, Andrew Cruickshank, Duncan Macrae, Roddy McMillan, Tom Fleming, John Grieve, Edith McArthur, Eileen McCallum, Iain Cuthbertson and Jean Redpath. Among the poets he recorded were Hugh MacDiarmid, Sydney Goodsir Smith, Norman MacCaig, George Bruce, Edwin Muir, Edwin Morgan, George Mackay Brown and George Bruce (who was his cousin).

Almost by accident, Gray found himself with a Scottish No 1 hit on his hands when he released a record of Duncan



Macrae doing his Hogmanay party-piece about *The Wee Cock Sparra* that *Sat on a Barra*. (Macrae was rather embarrassed by its success; he would have preferred to be recognised for his more serious work as an actor.)

Gray also made a recording called *Highland Voyage*, with original songs and music, featuring Macrae as Para Handy, the Clyde puffer skipper created by Neil Munro. He then hired a Clyde puffer and filmed Macrae in the Para Handy role. The film never made it into the cinemas, and lay forgotten for more than two decades until Jim Hunter, then head of television BBC Scotland, heard about it and

screened it, declaring it the most important discovery of his television career.

For 15 years Gray owned the little Solsgirth Theatre in an old manor house at Kirkintilloch near Glasgow. Andrew Cruickshank opened it, and Hugh MacDiarmid regularly appeared there.

On one occasion Tom Fleming and Edith McArthur were appearing there and asked where they should change. "Oh there's a room here," replied Gray absently, ushering them both into the same dressing room, where they discovered there were no curtains and they would be in full view of the arriving audience.

For the last 17 years of his life Gray lived at Brig o'Turk, near Callander, running the village's "post office and art gallery", and gradually digitising his treasure trove of old master tapes and discs. (All of his fine work is now in the Scottish Film Archive.) He was chairman of the Trochachs Highland Festival, and had been working on writing and printing the local news sheet, *Talk of the Trochachs*, when he suffered the first of two heart attacks that ended his life.

His late wife, Paula, a zoology lecturer at Glasgow University, died some years ago. He is survived by two sons and two daughters.

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A CHESS MATCH FOR THE MILLIONS

From Harry Golombek

Reykjavik, Sept 1. The Spassky-Fischer match has a good claim to be regarded as the most important in the whole history of world championship matches. I would class the intrinsic worth of the games and the chess they contained as one of the highest in modern times...

Spassky 1, Fischer 0 became Spassky 2, Fischer 0 when the American refused to turn up to play the second game, because the television cameras were upsetting him... But it was in the fifth that we began to realise that Spassky's form was not at its best, though he had black. Fischer was on the offensive in the very early middle-game, playing a Nimowitsch defence with great virtuosity. On the 27th move Spassky overlooked a deadly little combination and it was all over. So Fischer had equalized the match 2½-2½ after starting off with two losses.

The sixth game was a really magnificent one by Fischer. Starting off with a great surprise of 1.P-QB4, he played a Queen's Gambit in a style reminiscent and worthy of Capablanca. It was a masterpiece, both strategically and

ON THIS DAY

September 2, 1972

Accepting his position as hopeless, Spassky conceded the championship with a telephone call. In 1973 Fischer lost the title by default, but emerged from retirement in 1992 to defeat Spassky again.

tactically. Fischer, for the first time, was in the lead by 3½-2½. He was never to lose it. Seeing that he was doing no good with the Queen's pawn openings, Spassky turned over to 1.P-K4 for the seventh game and Fischer replied with a Sicilian defence in which he took off the QKIP with his queen — the so-called poisoned pawn variation...

Fischer once again played 1.P-QB4 in the eighth game, but this time the opening was a genuine English. It was also a bad game in as much as Spassky overlooked at least two very obvious moves and lost. The score was now Fischer 5, Spassky 3...

best game of the match, the tenth which was a Ruy Lopez of quite classical format. Spassky made just one slip and that not an obvious one and the rest of the game was an example of how to play a king-side attack on firm classical lines.

But when, in the eleventh game, Fischer again employed his poisoned pawn variation of the Sicilian Defence, Spassky really shone in dealing with it. That pulled Fischer back to 6½-4½, and with a draw in the next game the score became Fischer 7, Spassky 5. Another surprise was sprung by Fischer in the next game when he played an Alekhine defence. Perhaps unsettled by this and clearly not expecting it, Spassky lost a rather strange game that one felt he should never have done.

But the score was back to the three point lead for Fischer with 8½, and Spassky's only possible salvation lay in some forceful wins... By the time the twenty-first game was reached the score was Fischer 11½, Spassky 8½. Spassky lost the game, I am sure, as a result of sheer fatigue and with it his title. At the adjournment his sealed move was B-Q7, but this morning he resigned without resuming play. Fischer was world champion by 12½-8½ and the magnificent match was over.

NEWS

Driver of Princess's car was drunk

The chauffeur of the car in which Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed had been driving at 120mph while drunk, French investigators discovered. Henri Paul, deputy head of security at the Paris Ritz, had had the equivalent of one and a half bottles of wine — when he drove the Princess and her companion Dodi Fayed from the hotel on Sunday night. Pages 1, 4

Arrangements for the funeral

Britain will come to a halt on Saturday as the nation mourns. The National Lottery draw has been postponed, cinemas and theatres have cancelled shows, sports events have been moved and banks will close. Pages 1, 2, 10

Queues for condolence books

The queue to sign the books of condolence at St James's Palace was numbered in thousands throughout the day, stretching from the Friary Court entrance halfway down The Mall towards Admiralty Arch. Page 3

Double life of bodyguard

Trevor Rees-Jones, the bodyguard who was the sole survivor of the crash, lived an extraordinary double life, moving with complete secrecy between his job and his home. Page 5

The Princess's will

Princess William and Harry will be the main beneficiaries of the will drawn up by the Princess of Wales. Page 6

Prince comforts his sons

The Prince of Wales may seek further practical help in comforting his sons from Tiggy Legge-Bourke, his former personal assistant. Page 7

How the world mourned

The death was mourned around the world, across continents and through language barriers. Pages 8, 9

Paparazzi harassment discussed

Harassment by the paparazzi was placed under urgent review by Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission. He began talks to discuss the insatiable demand for photographs of public figures. Page 13

Nanny register

Childcare campaigners called on the Government to establish a compulsory register of nannies amid reports that private companies are charging nannies up to £100 each to join unregulated registers. Page 14

Arson sentence anger

The father of a woman firefighter who died in a supermarket blaze attacked the 7½ year sentence on a security guard who started the fire. Roger Lombard said that the culprit needed psychiatric help and a longer term. Page 15

£1m a year lawyers

Four Queen's Counsel specialising in tax law are among 14 barristers reputed to be earning £1 million a year. Page 16

Montserrat 'mistakes'

George Foulkes, the International Development minister, accepting government mistakes over its handling of Montserrat, yesterday pledged its unequivocal commitment for a new start in the tiny British colony. Page 17

Elephants threatened

Sri Lanka is fighting to save its elephants from poachers, farmers and war. Tamil Tiger guerrillas have machinegunned many of them for no reason. Page 18

Yeltsin to go

President Yeltsin started Russia when he told a group of schoolchildren that he had no plans to remain in office beyond the turn of the century — when his presidential term expires. Page 19

DANGEROUS



Visitors to the Pencyr wildlife park near Swansea, drawn to a sign saying "the world's most dangerous animal", see a cage of people

BUSINESS

Bills: British Gas is expected to announce discounts for its direct-debit customers in South East England in an effort to keep business. Page 27

Japan: Yamauchi, the beleaguered Japanese securities house, is to sack up to 48 London staff in an attempt to cut £10 million-a-year British losses. Page 27

Economy: London shares bounced back strongly on new evidence that the economy may be starting to cool down and that further Bank of England interest rate rises may not be necessary. Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 52.7 to 4870.2. Sterling's index fell from 102.2 to 102.1 after a fall from \$1.6215 to \$1.6125 but a rise from DM2.9203 to DM2.9206. Page 30

SPORT

Cricket: Surrey will try to persuade other counties to support a two-division championship at a meeting at Lord's today. Page 49

Tennis: The British No 1, Greg Rusedski, reached the quarter-finals of the US Open by beating Daniel Vacek, of the Czech Republic, 7-6, 6-2, 6-2. Page 52

Rugby league: Great Britain broke with tradition yesterday by appointing a foreigner, Shaun McKee, the Australian coach of St Helens, to assist Andy Goodway as national coach. Page 48

Rowing: Britain's young development crews reaped the benefits of training with more experienced colleagues, such as Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, at the world championships. Page 50

ARTS

Global bookworms: An ambitious new poll of literary tastes is asking readers worldwide to pick the best books published in English in the past 20 years. Page 36

Wet, just wet: A decade in the charts for the Glaswegian quartet Wet Wet Wet has done nothing to tempt them away from safe old material. Page 36

Team temples: Four magnificent new football stadiums open in Britain this season, triumphs of high-tech architecture. The most impressive of all is at Bolton Wanderers. Page 37

Nordic night: Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra brought to the Proms a fine evening of Sibelius, Stravinsky and a Swedish premiere. Page 37

FEATURES

Unforgettable: Everyone will remember where they were when they heard the news that Diana, Princess of Wales, had died, says Sue Corrigan. Page 20

Money and morality: Steal a hundred dollars and you go to jail, steal a hundred million and you live in luxury in some foreign clime. Dorothy Rowe questions our attitudes to money. Page 20

Living with grief: The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, may haunt children whose parents are divorced, says Bill Frost. Page 21

Stung by Teachers: Teachers are having to face the possibility of being sued over bullying cases. Page 39

Big guns: Who would lawyers and other City professionals choose to represent them? Page 41

Diploma mills: Standards in British universities are often criticised. But what about their American equivalents? Page 43

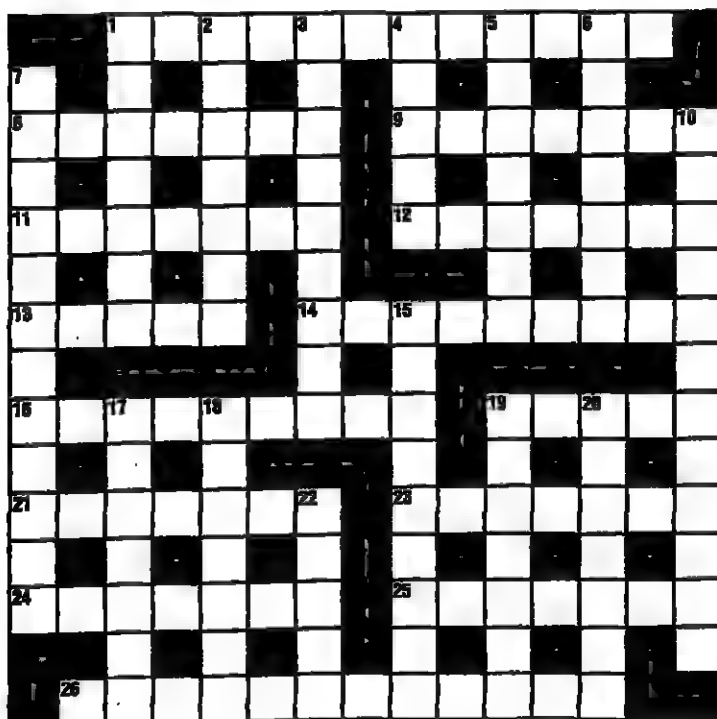
The papers: The ghost of Diana will pursue Prince Charles for life. This woman's tragic end will weigh heavily on a Royal Family that never understood her. The family should be included on the list of casualties from the tunnel under the Seine. — El Mundo, Madrid

TOMORROW
IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE
The weekly technology section celebrates its 100th issue and an electronic centenary

HOMES
Battle lines are being drawn as planners seek sites for more than 4 million new houses

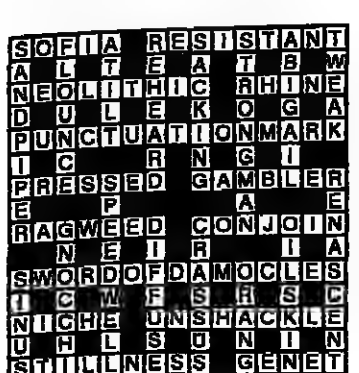
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,574



ACROSS

- Imaginary character among the first Wells wrote about (3,2,3,4).
- Puts a stop to a right to take holidays (7).
- Call for retirement (7).
- Somehow making me rich — a wild fancy that! (7).
- English lass I'm crazy for? (7).
- A good many fly (5).
- Book in volume a saint composed (9).
- Rants about breaking cash limit (9).
- Chinese outfit that could be nothing short of famous (5).
- Brought back from Lisle Manc's works of art (7).
- Paper, say, backed full range of fine material (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,573



DOWN

- Poet up in arms (7).
- Developing a trail, following new lead (7).
- Wishful thinking? For the present, no (9).
- Women's accommodation run by male (5).
- Sailor leaves a fortune (7).
- Foreign deliveries, a vast quantity (7).
- Pool steals ponches outside (5,7).
- Unsmart manoeuvre by board open to changes (12).
- One whose standing depends on recognition of his deeds (9).
- A river, moreover, goes over here (7).
- Finished level — have to fix that (3,4).
- Summoned for audition and seen (7).
- Workday Union set up with European support (7).
- Hard-hearted prejudice upset Indian gentleman (5).

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TODAY



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student life
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straight into last
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AND
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2 1997

Shares revive as economy shows signs of cooling

BY JANET BUSH
AND ANNE ASHWORTH

LONDON shares bounced back strongly yesterday on new evidence that the economy may be starting to cool down and that further Bank of England interest rate rises may not be necessary.

The FTSE 100 index ended more than 1 per cent higher, gaining 52.7 points to close at 4,870.2.

The latest economic data not only confirmed the considerable pain being imposed on British exporters

by the strong pound but also suggested the consumer economy, the powerhouse of current growth and main source of inflation worries, is losing its strength.

The August report of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply showed that manufacturing industry continued to expand, largely because of buoyant consumer demand at home, but at its slowest rate since June 1996. Almost a third of exporters reported a decline in export orders and, ominously, the purchasing managers' employment

index fell for the first time since March as firms laid off workers in an attempt to cut costs.

In parallel with the weaker picture in manufacturing came a number of items suggesting a slowing of consumer demand. Consumer credit rose by only a net £500 million in July, the lowest since late 1994 and less than half the increase of £1.2 billion in June.

The figures showed large debt repayments, suggesting that consumers had been financing purchases by borrowing in advance of receiving

windfall payments but then using the windfalls to repay their debts.

There was also a slowdown in the growth of M0 money supply, largely notes and coins in circulation. Annual growth fell to 5.0 per cent in August, from 5.8 per cent in July.

This was the lowest rate of growth for three years. Separately, the Halifax cut its forecast for house price rises this year to 6 per cent from 7 per cent previously. This is slightly below the 0.4 per cent annual rate of price inflation seen to date in the bank's

monthly price index. The August index today shows prices rising by 0.5 per cent during the month.

Gary Marsh, Halifax assistant general manager, said: "We are not moving into the boom conditions that other commentators' figures would seem to indicate. At the Halifax we believe that we are in a sustained recovery, not a boom."

Recent rises in mortgage rates and the further restriction in mortgage tax relief, due to take effect in April 1998, will act to subside the upward pressure on prices, the

Halifax believes. Mr Marsh said that there was no need for further rate rises to take the heat out of the property market. The bank expects that base rates will peak at 7.5 per cent in the first half of 1998.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders published figures showing that mortgage demand remains robust, with net lending up £2.3 billion in July after a £2.1 billion increase in June. But the CML said that new mortgage approvals were slightly down on June.

Commentary, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDEXES		
FTSE 100	4870.2	(+52.7)
Yield	2.8212	(0.0155)
FTSE All share	2296.0	(+19.28)
Nikkei	17974.30	(+25.12)
New York	Closed	
Dow Jones		
S&P Composite		

10Y RATE		
Federal Funds	Closed	(6.75%)
Long Bond		(6.61%)
Yield		

LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	11/16	(7.44)
Life long gilt		
Future (Sep)	11 1/8	(11.4)

STERLING		
New York	Closed	(1.8205)
London		
DM	1.8128	(1.8210)
FF	8.8325	(8.8770)
Sfr	2.4058	(2.4068)
Yen	194.94	(195.09)
£ Index	108.1	(102.2)

US \$		
London	Closed	(1.8205)
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Sfr		
Yen		
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£ Index	108.2	(102.5)

Morgan Grenfell five to fight for bonus

BY JASON NISSE

FIVE former directors of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management (MGAM), dismissed last October after the Peter Young scandal, are pursuing £5 million in bonus payments that they say are owed to them by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell (DMG), the fund manager's parent bank.

The five, who include Keith Percy, former chief executive of MGAM, and Glyn Owen, the former chief investment officer, are to put their case to trustees of the bank's phantom option plan (Pop) in the next six weeks.

They say they are entitled to payments under the £100 million plan that were built up over the previous six years at MGAM and were due to be paid in five tranches stretching up to 2001.

In Mr Percy's case, the payments total £2.5 million, and the deferred bonuses for the other four are understood to be worth at least as much.

The trustees, led by Sir John Craven, the former DMG chairman, usually only allow bonuses to be paid if employees leave because of ill health or are made redundant. However, the trustees have discretion to let the five keep their bonus payments because they have been classified as "good leavers".

The five were dismissed after Ernst & Young accountants investigated the mismanagement of the Morgan Grenfell European Growth Fund, run by Peter Young. Four still receive a monthly salary from the bank because they had notice periods of a year.

The cost of DMG of the scandal has been put at more than £400 million, including a £2 million fine, with £1 million costs, levied by Inro, the watchdog. Inro is still investigating the role of senior directors of MGAM and is due to report this month.

The Pop, the subject of a long battle between DMG and the Inland Revenue over the way it operated, is worth more than £100 million. The largest beneficiary, Michael Dobson, DMG's chief executive, is to be paid £7 million.

Centrica to target gas and electricity markets

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL
CORRESPONDENT

THE old and much maligned British Gas will complete its transformation in the autumn with a multi-million-pound campaign to establish itself as a one-stop energy company selling electricity and gas.

The company will today launch a new offensive to retain business in the gas market, announcing discounts for direct-debit customers in the competitive areas of the South East. The move follows the introduction of a similar discount in the South West, the first area to open to competition.

The discounts of 12 per cent on bills are certain to incense rival companies. They complained last time that the regulator should not sanction such discounts until there is more competition in the market. Competitors fear that if British Gas is allowed to offer discounts then customers will stay with the company rather than shopping around.

The regulator, who has called for consultation on future discounts, is not expected to oppose the discount.

Centrica, the parent company of British Gas Trading, is also ready to set out its strategy for the competitive electricity market, which begins next April, in a sweeping marketing initiative that will include television and radio advertising.

Centrica hopes to capture a large share of the electricity market while retaining gas customers through a series of campaigns that is likely to start when the next round of domestic gas competition begins in November.

At a later date the company is expected to provide an array of new financial services after the success of its Goldfish credit card.

Centrica's eagerness to enter the electricity market will come as a relief for the Department



Roy Gardner, Centrica's chief executive, today launches discounts in the South East in its two-pronged offensive

of Trade and Industry and the industry regulator, who had feared blue chip companies were shying away from entering the electricity market. After an early bout of enthusiasm from large retailers, interest in the household electricity market seemed to have waned. It is thought that Centrica will keep the name of British Gas prominent in its marketing.

Centrica's monopoly in domestic gas is being eroded by the roll-out of competition. In areas where household gas competition has been established — the South West of

England and parts of the South East — Centrica has so far lost 22 per cent of its customers to rivals.

Yesterday saw the first consolidation of gas suppliers with the joining of Amerasia Hess and SwedGas in the South West. Under the agree-

ment SwedGas will receive access to long-term gas supplies while Amerasia, the regional electricity company that owns SwedGas, will sell SwedGas's share capital to Amerasia.

Analysts have long been dipping consolidation in the gas market as a variety of

companies offer substantial discounts to customers who seem reluctant to switch.

Centrica's share price has rallied in recent months spurred by growing confidence in the company's strategy and its success in renegotiating expensive take-or-pay contracts. From a low of 56p in May it stood at 91p yesterday.

Shares of BGC, which inherited the pipeline and exploration and production interests of British Gas at demerger, have also risen sharply to 270p from 125p a year ago.

PIA fine for DBS over slow pension review

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Personal Investment Authority has imposed its largest fine on a financial group, forcing the resignation of one of its own directors from the City regulator's board.

Ken Davy, chairman of DBS Financial Management, the financial advisers' network, resigned after the PIA fined his company £425,000 over the slow progress of its pensions mis-selling review.

The PIA said DBS, which operates a network of 2,600 advisers, had failed to take all reasonable steps in reviewing the pensions business of its representatives. It had also failed to monitor the pensions review of around 500 of its members before they joined the DBS network. It ordered DBS to pay £19,450 costs.

An estimated 1.5 million people are eligible for compensation after being wrongly advised in the late 1980s and early 1990s to leave, or not join, company pension schemes in favour of personal pensions with lower benefits. The PIA has demanded that 90 per cent of the 500,000 priority cases be settled by the end of the year. About 10 per cent were originated by independent financial advisers.

Mr Davy, who joined the PIA board in July 1995, said: "I felt it was inappropriate to continue on the board."

Martin Greenwood, chief executive of DBS, said the company was disappointed at the size of the fine but had decided not to appeal so that it could focus on resolving its case load. Although he refused to say how many cases DBS had to review he was confident the company would achieve this year's PIA deadline.

DBS has blamed the hold-ups on lack of information from occupational pensions schemes and the difficulties in calculating the compensation payments. However, the company is believed to have clashed with the PIA over the amount of review work that could be delegated to local member firms. It is also understood to have underestimated the burden imposed by its responsibility for its members' pre-network business.

The PIA is taking an increasingly aggressive line. Two weeks ago it fined the Leeds-based M&E IFA network £100,000 over pensions mis-selling, then a record.

Commentary, page 29

Regulator may go to Docklands

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE new City super-regulator has approached Canary Wharf about taking a huge office there for its headquarters, a move that would be a blow to the City.

The Canary Wharf address is at 25 The Colonnades, next to premises taken by Barclays de Zoete Wadd. Sources close to the new regulator, currently operating under the working name NewRo, say that no decision has been taken. It is only one of six properties being considered by a steering committee of the new body.

However, the organisation had had to put down a firm marker of interest in the building, which is ready for occupation, to head off approaches from another potential occupier, thought to be a big insurance broker. "We've secured it to stay on our shortlist," said one source. "We're keeping our options open."

Of the other five properties under consideration, several are not yet completed or would need modification. They include Thames Court and space at St Martin's Le Grand.

INSIDE

■ Alf Roberts could receive up to £1.3 million in compensation and profits from share options after quitting the board of PowerGen with no job to go to. Details of the payoff emerged as new pay data indicates that boardroom remuneration is rising by 16 per cent a year. Board pay, page 28

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Boardroom pay races ahead of inflation

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

COMPANIES are rejecting attempts to limit boardroom pay increases, with top company directors' pay now rising five times as fast as inflation.

The latest findings from the Labour Research Department (LRD), an independent research body with no connection to the Labour Party, shows that the average rise of 16 per cent in directors' pay in publicly quoted companies compares with inflation at 3 per cent, and earnings less than the economy as a whole of over 4 per cent.

The average increase of 16 per cent is the same as the rise last year, against 10 per cent the previous year.

Referring to the Government-backed inquiry into boardroom pay, headed by Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks & Spencer, the LRD says that "boardroom remuneration committees have turned a deaf ear to the Greenbury committee, which urged more sensitivity on executive pay, and to public disquiet about the explosion of 'fat cat' salaries".

The league table of directors earning more than £1 million is topped by Jim Ffield of EMI, the music group, at £5.8 million, and Sam Chisholm, who was paid £3.8 million before resigning from BSKYB, though the salaries of both actually fell over the year.

LRD says that some of the largest salaries are found in private limited companies, with an unidentified director

at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell earning £6.6 million. Pay among directors in these companies tends to be more volatile, LRD says, with this year's average increase of 20 per cent, compared with just 1 per cent in last year's survey. Mohammed Pervez, chairman of the Bestway cash and carry group, saw a 1,208 per cent pay rise, from £239,000 to £3.1 million, after standing at £2.8 million the previous year.

LRD says that the top earners in cash terms are celebrities who are directors of their own companies. The research organisation reports that Elton John, the singer, leads the pay league with earnings of £35.5 million from Happenstance and J Bondi, his two companies — a 241 per cent rise.

Sting, former vocalist with the Police, saw what LRD says is a "revival in his fortunes" with a rise of 659 per cent in his earnings from two companies. Steepkiss and Steepkiss Overseas, taking his pay to £10.2 million.

Other high earners include Eric Clapton, at £9.3 million, a rise of 59 per cent. Phil Collins at £8.8 million, a rise of 48 per cent, and Sir Paul McCartney at £3.6 million, a rise of 135 per cent.

But the earnings of Mark Knopfler, leader of Dire Straits, are a mirror of his band's name, with a drop in his pay from his company Chariscourt of 39 per cent, to £1.7 million.



Roger Llewellyn, chairman of Brit Air, left, and Angus Wright, the chief executive, with Captain Pugwash, a children's cartoon favourite. The company raised pre-tax profits 21 per cent to £2.35 million in the year ended June 30. Earnings per share were up 17 per cent to 6.6p and the total dividend rose 13 per cent to 1.8p, compared with 1.2p

Shell plans \$2bn India gas venture

By Carl Mortimer

SHELL is planning a \$2 billion (£1.25 billion) investment in natural gas power generation in India, its first big project in the country.

Shell International Gas will take an 80 per cent interest in a joint venture with Essar, the Indian steel and power company, which will build a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal at Hazira in Gujarat. The five-year project will also increase the 515 megawatt capacity of Essar's existing power station to 2,000 megawatts.

Shell said the LNG terminal would have initial capacity of 2.5 million tonnes, rising to five million tonnes over five years.

The Anglo-Dutch oil company has LNG production facilities in Oman, Brunei and Malaysia and has a major gas liquefaction project under way in Nigeria.

India has a severe electricity shortage with power cuts a frequent occurrence, and the Indian Government is encouraging investment in infrastructure. The oil company recently signed a joint venture with Cairn Energy to develop gasfields in Bangladesh with the long-term goal of piping gas to cities on India's east coast.

Northern Rock price unchanged

By Anne Ashworth

NORTHERN ROCK, the fourth building society to become a bank this year, is not increasing the estimate of the windfall to be distributed to its 885,000 customers next month.

This is despite an 18.5 per cent increase in the FTSE retail banking index since the price prediction was made in February. It is understood that Northern Rock and its advisers have decided that the market should be allowed to determine the value of the shares.

As Northern Rock qualifying borrowers and savers are receiving 500 shares each, this means that their payment will be worth between £1,300 and

£1,475. There was speculation last month that the Northern Rock price estimate would be raised by 10 per cent, giving an average windfall of £1,600 plus.

Demand for banking shares has fuelled the rise in the FTSE 100 index of leading companies. Funds have been eager to acquire stakes in the Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester, the other societies that have converted to banks in 1997. The Halifax, floated on June 1, hit a high of 779p on July 1, 358p higher than the 420p mid-price estimate made for the shares earlier in the year. Yesterday its shares closed at 709p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BTP a buyer in £62m Yorkshire disposals

YORKSHIRE GROUP, the troubled chemicals producer, has agreed to sell three of its four businesses for £62.2 million, ending its 20-year history as a leather dyes and printing ink combine. The company, which last year saw its profits plunge from £10.1 million to £2.8 million, is to become a standalone textile dyes company less than three quarters of its former size.

BTP, the chemicals group, is buying the leather and speciality chemicals business — the largest business on the auction block — for £37.1 million. Yorkshire's British pigment dispersions business has been sold to Holliday Chemicals for £1.9 million. Yorkshire has agreed to sell its Australian pigments business, which has assets of £14.8 million, to H&S America for £23.3 million. The City welcomed the disposals, and Yorkshire jumped 25p to 200p, a two-year high.

Laird buys Mimtec

LAIRD, the vehicle parts and assembly group, has acquired Mimtec Electronics for £20.9 million. Mimtec supplies the Scottish computer and electronics industry with assembly services and, in the year to January 31, had sales of £29.5 million and operating profits of £2.4 million. Its estimated net liabilities at acquisition are £1 million. Laird is paying with £2.3 million cash and is assuming £18.6 million of debt and repayment of preference shares. Laird said the deal extended its strategy of developing its computer-related activities.

Leisure lifts Gowrings

GOWRINGS, the Ford motor dealer and Burger King operator, reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £359,000 from £139,000 in the six months to June 30 on turnover that improved to £38.6 million (£31.59 million). The dividend is increased to 1.1p (1p) a share, payable on November 3 from earnings that rose to 2.66p (1.06p) a share. The company said the leisure division, which operates 21 Burger King outlets, had recovered from the BSE scare, with sales improving 9 per cent in the second quarter.

Perkins plans buyback

PERKINS FOODS raised pre-tax profits by 27 per cent to £14.1 million in the six months to June 30. Earnings per share rose by 20 per cent, to 4.8p. The dividend is to rise by 3 per cent, to 1.8p. Perkins also intends to buy back £1 million of shares. Because of the buyback Perkins is able to count the dividend as a foreign income dividend. FTDs are only allowed for companies that have one class of share. Perkins has ordinary and convertible shares but the rule is waived if there is a transaction such as a share buyback. The shares rose 5p to 98p.

Lilleshall looks ahead

LILLESALL, the industrial and consumer products group, is keeping its interim dividend at 1.85p despite lifting pre-tax profits to £2.37 million (£1.55 million). Adjusted earnings rose to 4.45p a share, from 2.53p. Turnover declined to £49.2 million (£57.7 million), after the disposal of non-core businesses. The company, which earned pre-tax profits of £1.35 million last year, would deliver "a much more acceptable performance" in the second half, said Peter Ryan, chairman.

Roxspur recovers

RESTRUCTURING and rationalisation at Roxspur, the specialist manufacturer of measurement and control products, helped pre-tax profits recover to £2.2 million from £172,000 in the year to the end of June, on turnover that was reduced to £26.2 million from £31.35 million after the disposal of non-core businesses. Gearing has been reduced to 75 per cent from 173 per cent. Earnings rose to 0.64p a share, from 0.02p. There is a 0.05p dividend for the year (nil).

Same again for Sidney

CHARLES SIDNEY, the Mercedes-Benz car dealer, is maintaining the interim dividend at 1.4p a share after pre-tax profits little changed at £2.65 million for the six months to June 30, against £2.67 million at the same time last year. Earnings were unchanged at 4.4p a share. Turnover fell to £124.35 million from £128 million, reflecting sluggish demand for trucks and volume cars. The company has promised to hold the total dividend at 4.2p for the financial year.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.51	2.14
Austria S	21.47	19.81
Belgium F	65.51	58.55
Canada C	2.94	2.178
Cyprus Cyp	0.904	0.885
Denmark K	11.71	10.82
Finland M	5.33	5.68
France F	10.50	9.85
Germany D	3.08	2.84
Greece Dr	4.85	2.45
Hong Kong H	12.35	12.45
Ireland P	1.14	1.08
Israel S	0.58	0.55
Italy L	3013	2776
Japan Y	308.55	288.50
Malta M	0.71	0.71
Netherlands G	3.478	3.182
New Zealand N	2.70	2.45
Norway K	12.85	11.75
Portugal Esc	308.55	288.50
S Africa R	6.30	7.54
Spain P	257.25	228.50
Sweden Kr	13.51	12.41
Switzerland F	12.85	11.75
Turkey L	278.55	257.57
USA \$	1.718	1.578

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

New directors for Kingfisher board

By Fraser Nelson

KINGFISHER, the Comet to Woolworths group, has recruited Margaret Salmon, the BBC's personnel director, and Michael Hephner, chief executive of Charterhouse Bank, as non-executive directors.

The appointments, the first fresh blood on Kingfisher's board in 18 months, were applauded in the City as figures who will help to keep a grip on cost control. The move marks Mrs Salmon's first return to the private sector since she left Burton Group ten years ago. She became the first female director of the

BBC in 1990 and gained a reputation for toughness.

Mr Hephner resigned as managing director of British Telecom two years ago and joined Charterhouse last summer. He was formerly chairman of Abbey Life unit trust and pensions group, fronting its merger with Black Horse. He also has the reputation for being a tough operator.

Kingfisher is adding an extra position to its board after the resignation of Michael Hollingbery three months ago. No further departures are expected.

Scope exists for 100 more TV channels than planned

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

THE UK could have a further 100 channels of digital television in addition to those already planned — if anyone is willing to invest several hundred million pounds.

The Department of Trade and Industry is looking for suggestions by the end of this month on how to use a batch of frequencies that are surplus to current requirements.

Apart from 100 channels of digital television the frequencies could be used for everything from broadcasting the Internet to PCs and business and data communications to

creating educational networks for the UK.

Five of the available frequencies were used by British Satellite Broadcasting, the satellite television venture that merged with Sky Television to form BSKYB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times. After the merger the two high-power satellites were bought by Scandinavian broadcasters.

The UK Government has recently secured a second block of five frequencies by international agreement. Barbara Roche, the Indus-

try Minister, believes the frequencies represent "potentially a valuable resource" and that the Government is open-minded about proposals for their use. If there is enough interest from serious players, the DTI may offer the frequencies either in a "beauty parade" or an auction.

Because of plans to launch digital satellite, digital cable and digital terrestrial services in the UK next year, business use, including communications, is probably the most realistic chance for the frequencies to be used.

Car Group launches warranty scheme

By Jason Nisse

THE Car Group, which is expanding its chain of car supermarkets, and Lloyds TSB, the high street bank, have joined forces to offer warranties for the four million second-hand cars that are sold privately every year.

The venture — which could be worth £500 million a year — is due to be launched before Christmas and will have the backing of the Automobile Association and Royal & Sun Alliance. Peter King, chief executive of The Car Group, said it would be the first attempt by retailers and financiers to break into a market worth more than £6 billion a year.

Motorists buying cars pri-

vately — as many do each day through magazines such as Exchange & Mart, Auto Trader and Loo — will be able to purchase a six or 12-month warranty for £110 to £150.

This will guarantee repairs for mechanical breakdowns. Vendors will have to fill in a form saying which parts of the car are in full working order. Royal & Sun Alliance will underwrite the breakdown insurance. The AA will arbitrate in disputes about the state of the car when purchased.

The Car Group has just opened its second superstore, in Northampton, and has plans for three more to open in the next year.

Prudential Standard Variable Rate Change.

Prudential Banking plc has increased its Standard Variable Mortgage Rate by 0.25% to 8.45% with effect from Monday 1st September 1997 for both new and existing customers. For further information phone 0800 000 222 or contact your Prudential representative.

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COMPETITION PRIZE WINNERS

The Times/Ford 21 Car Prize Draw

Published June 1-21, 1997

- Ka2 B Fogg, Swavesey, Cambridge
- Puma J Cassial, Portobello, Edinburgh
- Ka3 Ms D Phillips, Crowthorne, Berkshire
- Escort Si A Bowker, Buxton, Derbyshire
- Maverick Mrs W White, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire
- Probe C Evans, Ramsgate, Kent
- Explorer Z Abolins, Lilbourne Road, Leicester
- Galaxy GLX Mrs A Barnett, Goldenash Northampton
- Escort Ghia J Evans, Wokington, Beverley
- Mondeo Si V6 M Humpage, Blackpool, Lancashire
- Fiesta Ghia 16v K Martin, Shooters Hill, London
- Mondeo Verona Mrs K Brayn, London
- Escort Ghia Cabriolet Mrs F Mansfield, London
- Galaxy GLX R Jarvis, Lincoln
- Scorpio Ultima 2.3 K Smart, Morecambe, Lancashire
- Fiesta Twenty First A Cooper, Scout Hill, Dewsbury
- Ka Mrs S Pavey, Lower Road, Longridge
- Escort Ghia Mrs F Pack, Wimborne, Dorset
- Escort Chicago Mrs Y McKnight, Birtlington, Kent
- Fiesta Ghia Mrs K Brown, Romford, Essex
- Fiesta LX 1.25 S Ruffo, East West Park, Wolverhampton

THE TIMES

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Now it's save till you drop



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

The consumer boom appears to be petering out before many of us even had a chance to enjoy it. Those economists who had been worrying about the inflationary impact of a nation hell-bent on a spending spree saw their fears begin to dissipate yesterday, with the publication of consumer credit figures well below their pessimistic expectations.

And it seems that all that summery excitement over soaring house prices might have been a touch exaggerated. The Halifax thinks so, trimming back its estimate of average increases for the year to just 6 per cent.

After years of the housing market being on hold while owner-occupiers sat tight unless circumstances left them no choice but to move, there was bound to be some catching up in prices but the level Halifax is now divining is hardly the stuff of which overnight fortunes are made. Increases need to be on a steeper slope if they are to bring a warm and wealthy feel to those who enjoy a weekend retreat of the estate agents' windows.

Should we all then be congratulating the newly independent Bank of England, and its monetary policy committee, on having been so effective in bringing the consumer boom to a halt and thus preventing inflation from picking up speed?

Well, probably not. The MPC's succession of interest rate rises is unlikely by themselves to have

reined in a nation of determined spendthrifts. What is more likely is that the extravagant inclinations that Chancellor Gordon Brown had a prim Scottish urge to see curbed, may have never been in danger of fuelling an inflationary spiral.

Throughout the recent months of blossoming retail sales statistics, the retailers themselves have insisted, rather dolefully, that customers were still being careful. The mood of price-consciousness that took root in the recession has remained in place for the recovery. What has swelled the figures is the £30 billion of windfalls that the demutualising insurers and building societies have showered on their followers. A proportion of that cash has been splurged on holidays and computers, but it has not been frittered away on frumpies.

Could it be that consumers have turned into the realities? Politicians of both parties have accepted that the individual is going to have to make increasing financial provision for his or her own welfare in the future. The message may not have been trumpeted too loudly over the election but it is inescapably the case.

The evidence is that, whether they were genuine savers or astute carpet-baggers, those who have benefited from the windfalls are choosing to stash the cash away.

It is too soon to conclude that we have become a nation of savers, but the omens are encouraging, and they indicate that the MPC may not have needed to make the last turn of its interest rate ratchet, punishing business rather than the odd shopaholic.

Let punishment fit the crime

Ken Davy is clearly a man of deep insight and keen sensibilities. Yesterday he sensed the prevailing mood and decided to resign from the Personal Investment Authority. "I felt it was inappropriate for me to continue on the PIA board," he said.

Since the business he chairs

has just been fined £425,000 by the PIA, you might conclude that Mr Davy was right. The fine, the biggest ever levied by the PIA, is a punishment for his organisation's laxity in dealing with the aftermath of the pensions mis-selling scandal.

Mr Davy's firm is not alone in its tardiness, as Helen Liddell, the battling Treasury Minister, has vigorously spelt out, but his case does highlight the difficulties inherent in self-regulation. For if the PIA board harbours individuals who do not appear to appreciate the need for speed in clearing up the personal pensions mess, can it be entirely surprising that the industry as a whole has demonstrated a level of ineffectiveness that has driven Ms Liddell to screaming pitch?

Until very recently, the financial services industry managed to convey the impression that it did not really accept responsibility for the way that hundreds of thousands of individuals were

put at a financial disadvantage because of its avaricious activities. The PIA was pathetically ineffectual in persuading companies to offer speedy compensation. But now one must ask whether the presence of poachers on the game-keeping board must not, inevitably, colour attitudes.

Such a quandary will always bedevil self-regulation and high fines will not remove it. What, in any case, constitutes a high fine? Last week we saw SBC Warburg hit with a fine of £300,000 by the Securities and Futures Authority. Hardly the sort of sum to send a giant international investment bank begging for mercy.

The bank, rather like Mr Davy's firm, had been found guilty of not always safeguarding its clients' best interests above its own. What is an appropriate punishment in that instance? This is the question that the SFA is now examining and it seems it is looking at proposals that would see, per-

haps, a tripling of the level of its fine structure. The fact is that even a quadrupling of its cash penalty would have been mere petty cash to SBC.

As Howard Davies works on the blueprint for the new super regulator, still known by the unimaginative name of Newro, what he needs to pay attention to is finding penalties that hurt.

Centrica's dream takes shape

Less than a year ago, hardly a day seemed to go by without fresh scorn being poured on British Gas. A popular whipping boy after the scandals over executive pay, British Gas did itself greater harm by threatening to disconnect thousands of paying customers and having too few engineers to cope with service contracts.

Put together with its take-or-pay obligations and the erosion of its domestic monopoly, the supply of half of British Gas looked like a basket case. It could have broken a weaker management. But Roy Gardner, the chief executive of Centrica, British Gas Trading's parent, is made of sterner stuff. The former managing director of

GEC-Marconi set about what seemed like an impossible dream. That was to make British Gas both a credible force and — dare we say it — likeable again.

The dream is taking shape. Centrica stands on the verge of becoming a national energy company once the market in household electricity opens and the company is so far the only household name that seems ready to enter the arena. It has imaginative designs on financial services which will rely on British Gas's repaired reputation.

Twelve months ago, the idea would have been laughable. But today, only 22 per cent of those who have been offered the chance of switching to another gas supplier have chosen to leave BG. That means there must be a huge number of satisfied customers out there. Whether they will snap up insurance from the gasman is another matter.

Boardroom links

THE role of non-executive directors is increasingly important but few chief executives like a boardroom peopled with strangers. So Michael Hephner's arrival at Kingfisher will be doubly popular with Sir Geoff Mulcahy. As a non-exec at BT, Sir Geoff would have seen Mr Hephner in action. Now Mr Hephner is at Charterhouse, the links are preserved for it was Charterhouse boss Victor Blank who played a crucial role in creating Kingfisher.

MFI jobs at risk in shake-up

MFI, the furniture retailer, is likely to shed about 1,000 jobs to become more efficient by streamlining its sales operations.

It is believed that MFI will reduce the number of warehouses attached to its shops. However, it will not sack people at its furniture manufacturing businesses, in which demand currently outstrips supply.

MFI yesterday refused to comment beyond saying that it will make a trading statement at its annual meeting on September 25.

Haynes up

Haynes Publishing, the car manual group, lifted pre-tax profits by 2 per cent to £5.6 million, in the year to May 31. US operating profits rose 10 per cent, to £3.3 million, but UK and European operating profits fell 10 per cent, to £1.9 million. The year's dividend rises 2 per cent, to 10.5p, via a final down from 5.5p to 5.5p to cut the difference between interim and final.

Club's loss

Club Mediterranée, the French resort operator, saw a first-half loss of Fr414 million (£42 million) after restructuring charges of Fr630 million. It expects charges in the second half of the year to October 31, but less than in the first.

Forest in talks

Nottingham Forest, the football club planning to float on the AIM in the autumn, is still in talks with Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, about becoming a non-executive director. *Tempus, page 30*

More cash for investors hope by Burmah Castrol

By CARL MORTSHED

BURMAH CASTROL, the lubricants group, is seeking efficient ways to return more cash to shareholders after an 11 per cent rise in first-half net profits, to £75 million, aided by strong growth in Asia and improved margins from industrial chemicals.

The company, which makes Castrol GTX motor oil, saw its profits, mainly earned overseas, cut by £10 million because of sterling's strength. At constant currencies, group after-tax profits were up 28 per cent, with earnings per share up 26 per cent, to 35.5p.

Burmah is paying a foreign income dividend (FID) of 27p at the halfway stage and reversing the normal weighting of the annual distribution so that two thirds of the total payout will in the first half. The move cuts Burmah's total cash charge from 39 per cent to 36 per cent and follows the Chancellor's decision to abolish FIDs in the last Budget. Protests from Burmah Castrol and other companies with big overseas earnings prompted the Government to review its policy. Jonathan Fry, chief executive, said: "We don't know what may come of it — we thought it prudent to look in some dividend."

Positive cashflow has

outgearing to 18 per cent, and the interest bill is covered more than 16 times by profits. Brian Hardy, finance director, said the proper way to raise gearing was to invest in the business or return cash to shareholders. "We are working on returning cash to shareholders," he said. "We would seriously consider it if we could find a tax-efficient way."

Profits from lubricants rose 19 per cent on a constant currency basis, to £104 million, with volume up 6 per cent in spite of weak demand in continental Europe. Mr Fry said a £30 million investment in advertising in the US had lifted Castrol's market share to 16 per cent, taking the brand level with the rival Pennzoil.

Mr Fry said the financial crisis in Thailand was increasing bad debts, but he did not expect troubles in financial markets to be a problem for Castrol in Malaysia. Burmah's Thai business contributes a net £2.5 million to group earnings and the company expects no growth in the current year.

Burmah's industrial chemicals businesses lifted profits by 29 per cent, to £35 million at constant currencies, but turnover rose by only 2 per cent.



Brian Hardy, left, and Jonathan Fry saw profit rise

Tempus, page 30

Miller Freeman pays £81m in America

By ERIC REGULY

MILLER FREEMAN, the exhibitions arm of United News & Media, completed a spate of acquisitions yesterday with the \$130 (£81 million) purchase of Telecom Library, an American organiser of trade shows in the technology sector. The

purchase raises the value of acquisitions made by Miller Freeman to \$1.2 billion in little more than a year.

Miller Freeman bought Telecom Library from the two American entrepreneurs who founded the New York company in the early 1980s. It specialises in the computer-

telephony integration sector. The technology links phones and computer networks, allowing the integrated use of voice, data and text.

The deal marks the first, and probably last, big acquisition made by Tony Tillin, the former Enpar business communications head who be-

came Miller Freeman's chief executive last month. He said: "I don't think we'll be doing any more \$100 million-plus deals from now on, though smaller in-fill purchases are likely. Organic development is now our focus."

Tempus, page 30

Bunzl to widen portfolio

By OLIVER AUGUST

BUNZL will seek further acquisitions in the wake of surprisingly good interim results yesterday. The paper and packaging group, which has made a string of acquisitions this year, increased profits by 12 per cent, in spite of exchange rate problems.

Anthony Habgood, chairman, is looking for companies that fit Bunzl's portfolio of disposables, filters and plastics.

Fine paper, Bunzl's fourth division, is being downgraded. European fine paper operations have been sold over the last few months, leaving only the UK operations. Mr Habgood said the UK business would not be sold because it did not share the problems of the Continental businesses.

Pre-tax profits in the half year to June 30 rose from £55.8 million to £62.4 million. Earnings per share went up from 8.1p to 9p. The interim dividend, due January 2, was lifted by 10 per cent, to 2.3p. Net cash rose from £22.8 million to £39.3 million.

Sales growth of 3 per cent in a flat market was knocked down 2 per cent by price deflation. The strong pound decreased sales and profits by 6 per cent.

Mr Habgood said: "The currency translation impact seen in the first half should be greatly ameliorated in the second half, if the dollar remains at its current level. Price comparisons in the second half should also be less unfavourable, although the outlook for UK fine paper prices remains uncertain."

Tempus, page 30

Bluebird Toys finds answer to US distribution

By DOMINIC WALSH

CHRIS BURGIN, chief executive of Bluebird Toys, claimed yesterday that the company had resolved the US distribution problems which prompted a profits warning in May.

He said that Mattel, the US toy company which distributes Bluebird products such as Polly Pocket and the Disney Tiny Collection outside the UK, had recognised the problem and appointed a new marketing team to revitalise US distribution.

Bluebird is also hoping to boost its UK performance with Micro Pet, a Tamagotchi-style electronic pet, for which it has just taken on the UK distribution rights.

Bluebird's share price, down a penny to 92½p yesterday in the wake of its interim results, plunged by 62½p in the wake of the May profits warning, reviving takeover speculation involving Hasbro.

The US toy manufacturer, which holds a 6.7 per cent stake. However, Mr Burgin was adamant he had received no approaches.

In the first half of 1997 pre-tax profits slumped from £3.1 million to £1.9 million on turnover down from £23.5 million to £18.8 million. While the US was a major factor, UK sales dipped from £8.7 million to just over £7 million as retailers continued the recent trend towards taking delivery of products ever closer to the crucial Christmas trading period.

Over the past 18 months Bluebird has returned £15.7 million of cash to shareholders and Mr Burgin said that further share buybacks were a possibility. Earnings per share dropped from 4.5p to 3.1p, and the interim dividend, payable on November 14, remains unchanged at 2.25p.

Plasmon founder quits in shake-up

By FRASER NELSON

PETER HELFET, the founder and chief executive of Plasmon, has resigned from the company as part of a big shake-up involving its retreat from the recordable CD discs market at a cost of £6 million.

Mr Helfet, whose pay doubled to £187,000 last year, is likely to receive the same again in compensation. He will be succeeded by Nigel Street, finance director, who will oversee the restructuring, which involves the loss of 70 jobs at its factory in Melbourn, near Cambridge.

Barrie Morgans, its chairman, blamed the downturn on the price collapse of CD-R discs, which can record dense information that cannot be wiped off. Oversupply has left the discs selling at 62p apiece, he said, eliminating chances that it will profit from a planned expansion into the market.

The company is expected to plunge into the red with a £2.5 million loss this year (£1.86 million profit). Its shares moved up 5p to 47½p. They were placed on the market at 175p apiece last summer.

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Traders' warning despite strong performance

THE London stock market put up a staunch performance in the face of Friday's losses on Wall Street and another sell-off in Hong Kong. The FTSE 100 index closed near its best of the day with a leap of 27.7 points to 4,870.2, while government securities sported gains of up to 1.4%.

But the message from traders rang out clearly to clients — don't trust it.

With Wall Street and the troubled Malaysian market closed, the London market was able to take matters in its stride. That picture may change when trading on Wall Street resumes today.

Conditions generally in London were quiet. Fewer than 500 million shares had changed hands by the close. Dealers attributed much of yesterday's gain to the strong showing by the financial future.

The recent turbulence on Wall Street and in the Far East has tempted investors to buy the "put" in anticipation that the market has further to fall. They may have now have hedged their positions by buying the cash market. Sentiment was bolstered early on by the weaker than expected money supply and consumer credit numbers, indicating that the recent rise in interest rates may be having the desired effect on the economy.

Further heavy turnover was recorded again in Asia. It was at 145.5p, where almost 20 million shares changed hands as a large line of stock went through the market. A line of 13.85 million shares went through at 144p. On Friday, three separate lines of nine million shares and a further line of 4.25 million went through at 146p. Total turnover yesterday reached 233.9 million shares.

Dixons firmed 11.5p to 662.5p before Thursday's annual meeting. The company is likely to indicate that it continues to enjoy the benefits of the building society windfalls.

GEC rose 1.2p to 393.5p ahead of Friday's annual meeting. Speculation is mounting that Roger Hurn, the former Smiths Industries head, is set to replace Lord Prior as chairman.

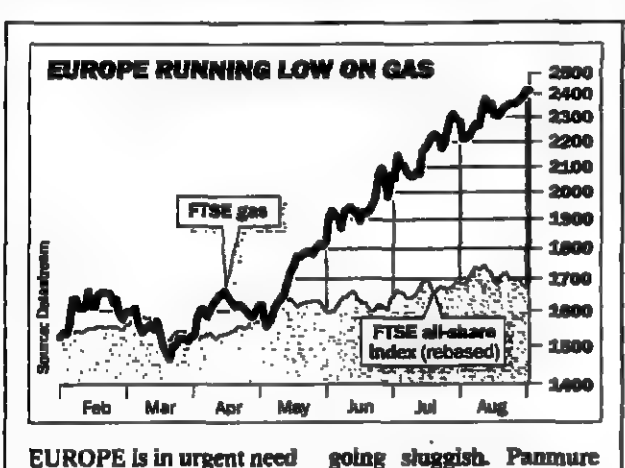
British Aerospace, up 16p at £14.60, received a helping hand from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, which are both recommending the shares. A recommen-



David Shipman, finance director of Lavendon, left, and David Price, chairman, saw the group's share price fall

dition from HSBC James Capel also put 24p on GKN at £12.08.

The turmoil in the Far East continued to weigh heavily, with HSBC down 10p at £19.10. Credit Lyonnais Laing has joined the growing queue of brokers starting to take a cautious view of prospects at the bank. But Bank of Scotland put on 7.5p at 423.5p as



going sluggish. Panmure has set a target price of between 120p and 160p encouraged by the prospect of a pick-up in demand for gas sales.

"Europe is predicted to go into gas deficit by the year 2001," says Butler.

She says the Europeans will be reluctant to buy Russian gas.

"The more the politicians worry about the environment, the more you will see gas come in as the fuel of choice. Centrica has plenty of gas and Europe will want more of it in five years time," she adds.

While the income funds have been piling into BG, down 5.5p at 264.5p, on the back of its strong yield, Centrica has found the

hand-held computer. Delays in deliveries stretched to three weeks. Brokers may be forced to cut their numbers if the group fails to resolve the problem.

News of an oil fund lifted Lassmo 7.2p to 266.5p. The fund is at the 402a block in the Ghadames Basin in Algeria where it holds a 13.75 per cent stake. The group is now testing to see if the fund is connected with a similar one in a block near by. Australia's Broken Hill Proprietary is the principle partner in the venture.

George Wimpey, which unveils figures today, slipped 3p to 130p. Brokers are looking for pre-tax profits of between £10 million and £20 million, compared with a deficit last time of £8.7 million.

The prospect of more disposals lifted Williams Holdings 8p to 356.5p. Reports over the weekend claimed that it had put its home improvements division, which includes the Playfilla and Polysteel brand names, up for sale.

Reaching for the skies was not an option open for shareholders of Lavendon Group as the price fell 3p to 254.5p in spite of reporting a near 60 per cent increase in half-year profits. David Price, chairman, is optimistic about the future. He says that the group is capable of achieving in Britain the penetration for power assets equipment already seen in America.

Petra Diamonds ended 4p better at 113.5p after raising £4.5 million via a placing of 4.3 million shares at 105p. The proceeds will be used to acquire and develop eight concessions in Angola. The Petra share price has been dogged recently by persistent bear selling.

GLT-EDGED: Prices in the London bond market drew strength from the weaker than expected money supply and consumer credit numbers. But trading conditions proved pitifully thin, with institutional investors clearly in no rush to open fresh positions.

In the futures pit, the September series of the Long Gilt put on £1.32 at £142.75 with just 17,500 contracts traded. In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose £1.32 to £10.92, while among shorter dated issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was up £1.16 to £10.27.

NEW YORK: Wall Street was closed for Labor Day.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	Closed
S&P Composite	Closed
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	17974.30 (+252.12)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	13425.65 (+709.46)
Amsterdam:	
EOB Index	891.92 (+13.68)
Sydney:	
ASX	2918.05 (+3.2)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	3889.09 (+43.93)
Singapore:	
Strait	1786.44 (+19.30)
Brussels:	
General	1226.39 (+146.90)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2875.84 (+35.35)
Zurich:	
SMI	1142.0 (+7.20)
London:	
FT 30	3424.1 (+22.1)
FTSE 100	4870.2 (+27.7)
FTSE 250	4610.2 (+4.8)
FTSE 350	4248.1 (+2.3)
FTSE Smallcap 100	2523.2 (+5.31)
FTSE All-Share	2290.0 (+19.28)
FTSE Non Financials	2320.0 (+21.10)
FTSE Financials	125.72 (+0.14)
FTSE Govt Secs	97.01 (+0.38)
Bargains	4094
SEAQ Volume	1,6125 (+0.002)
German Mark	2.3208 (+0.002)
Exchange Index	1021.1 (+4.1)
Bank of England official base (4pm)	1.4812
CEU	1.4812
US\$	1.5757 (+0.001)
RPI	157.57 (+3.34) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	156.47 (+3.09) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Antofagasta Cy Utr	402p
Bristol & West PFI	130p
Camnelli Ltd	115p
EMI B	115p
Fairfield Envs	117p
GR Holdings	55p
Galen Holdings	240p
Hellon Publsg	92p
Ionica Group	337p
Kingscliff Leisure	175p
Landround	92p
Rebourne Merin	105p
SBS Group	110p
Severn Trent B	33p
Stentor Warrants	49p
Style Holdings	85p
Thorn B	30p
Vigen Technology	63p

RIGHTS ISSUES

Dixon Mtr n/p (215)	32p
Golden Land n/p (21)	2p
Logica n/p (605)	162p
Pendragon n/p (265)	6p

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:	
Reliance Sec	120p (+12p)
RPS Group	216p (+13p)
Evans Heshaw	291p (+18p)
Smithline	550p (+23p)
Photobank	680p (+27p)
Clascom	300p (+10p)
GEC	303p (+12p)
Shield Diag	575p (+17p)
Sun Life & p	400p (+12p)
Ranger	580p (+17p)
Next	750p (+16p)
Kingscliff	730p (+14p)
Read Int	550p (+10p)
Alm & Corn	600p (+8p)
Patrolchem	677p (+15p)
AB Food	527p (+8p)
Tesco	418p (+9p)
Maris Spence	590p (+14p)
FALLS:	
Palin	330p (-28p)
Jardine Math	414p (-36p)
Compass Gp	803p (-12p)
Impale Plat	870p (-12p)

Closing Prices Page 38

TEMPUS

Lack of focus at United

IT IS one thing to be a conglomerate, but quite another to be second rate. United News & Media suffers from being number three in the ITV market and a small player in regional newspapers. Alongside its national Express titles, which struggle to keep pace with the Daily Mail and The Mail on Sunday, it has a wholesale money-broking business which, although profitable, is difficult to build on.

Still, United has made good progress in one area — business services. Exhibitions and related conferences and magazines have become United's biggest division and the industry's largest player. After a series of acquisitions, including Blenheim, cost savings are starting to convert into profits and the business offers plenty of scope to expand geographically and into new markets. The challenge is to overhaul the rest of the group.

Burmah Castrol

BURMAH CASTROL salesmen pulled out all the stops in the first half, selling 6 per cent more motor oil, proof that clever marketing can deliver growth even in the dull markets of the developed world. Burmah has its foot in the door of Volkswagen in France, previously the fiefdom of a French oil company, and is now leveraging with Penzance in the US, gaining market share.

There is little you can teach Burmah about selling brands but, beyond the tooth-and-claw aggression of the troops in the trenches, Burmah's financial strategy lacks punch. The huge margins and low capital expenditure requirements of the motor oil business mean that Burmah produces more cash than it needs to invest in the business. Balance sheet gear-

Newspapers would be a good place to start. Having ceased spending money on regional titles, United should sell them. The fate of the national papers is not so simple: the Express titles are far from dead, but will require huge investment if they are to take sales from the Mail. Without investment, the titles will lose ground, leaving United with the only option of selling to a proprietor with a large purse and ego to match — the Barclay brothers spring to mind. In television, United may not be the leader, but at least it has a seat at the table as the ITV market consolidates.

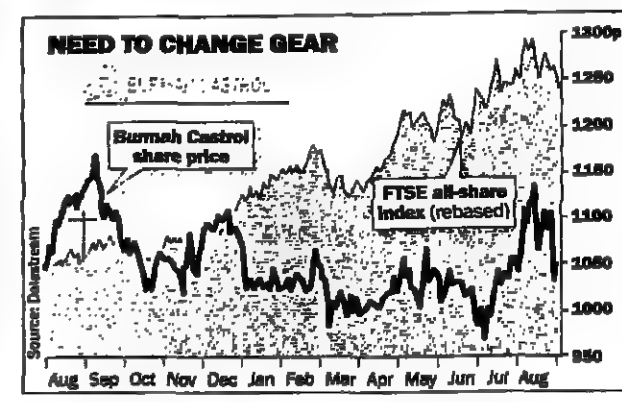
Because of its lack of focus, United remains one of the cheaper stocks in the sector. The progress made in business services indicates that the problem is being addressed, but more signs of a strategy shift are needed to change the share rating.

Burmah Castrol

ing has fallen to 18 per cent but the figure is in reality much lower as Burmah has written off big sums in goodwill from acquisitions. Burmah could reduce interest cover to half the current level of 16 times without much financial risk.

Instead, Burmah pussyfoots about the need for a tax-efficient method of re-

turning funds to shareholders. Burmah's hesitation may have something to do with arguments over the future of the foreign income dividend. But with or without a tax bill, Burmah cannot justify such low gearing when underlying earnings are growing at 20 per cent. This stock is cheap but will not remain so for long.



Bunzl

BUNZL's long-term acquisition strategy, the brainchild of Anthony Habgood, Bunzl's chairman, has proved successful. Yesterday's interim results showed both the health of existing operations and the potential for further deals. Almost half the businesses in Bunzl's portfolio were jettisoned over six years, with the fine paper business the last to go. Cash from disposals helped Bunzl to buy businesses in North America, pushing up net margins. Over five years to 1996, the return on sales has risen from 2.6 per cent to 6.4 per cent.

The interim results show considerable room for activity. Gearing will shoot up from 1 per cent to 62 per cent after the acquisitions announced so far in the second half. But this should not worry investors, who have seen a steady rise in return on capital from 12 per cent to 28 per cent over the past five

Nottingham Forest

SOCCER hype is back. Nottingham Forest has become the first club of the new season to announce its float plans, heading for AIM with a price tag of up to £40 million.

But what is there in Forest to justify such a price? The club was only rescued in the spring through an injection of £16 million by a team led by Nigel Wray, of Burford

and Trocadero fame. And since then the most significant event has been the club's relegation from the Premier League into the significantly less lucrative First Division.

Admittedly, Forest will be coming to market on the back of a run that has seen the team win their first six games of the season and Forest is a favourite for promotion. Phil Soar, the new chief executive, has installed some much needed commercial management.

But is there anything in Forest to justify a valuation three times last year's turnover and ten times net assets? This is a large club, but it is not in the same league — metaphorically or actually — as the likes of Aston Villa, or Manchester United. The Forest management team will have to work hard to justify the price tag and investors must pray for the success which eluded the club last season.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

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BORBUKA COFFEE (lb)			
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Mauling is not exclusive to Asian tigers

East Asia's market crisis has unleashed a sneering triumphalism among many free market voices in the West. Glee-filled obituaries on the region fill business pages, proclaiming that the Asian miracle was always an illusion. Within weeks of Hong Kong passing to Chinese rule, there are dark mutterings that this success story too is coming to an end.

There is no doubt that the Asian tigers are taking a savage mauling at the hands of disillusioned global investors and that the region's people and economies are likely to go through an extremely rough patch after all the years of stunning, if unevenly distributed, prosperity. But a lot of nonsense is being talked about this episode proving the superiority of one economic model over another.

There is nothing exclusive about macroeconomic misjudgment and inappropriate vainglory. Running up a huge

current account deficit is not an East Asian phenomenon (ask Reagan's America), nor is pegging one's currency at an inappropriately high level (ask Britain's Conservative Party), nor allowing a damaging property market bubble to unbalance one's economy (ditto).

Stripping out economic ideology or cultural prejudice, Asia's current troubles throw up some objectively interesting lessons. The overriding message is that the global market offers untold opportunities for wealth creation to those who run their economies well but stern punishment when macroeconomic mistakes are made. Mahathir Mohamad, Malaysia's Prime Minister, now railing against the evils of international

capital, appears to have forgotten the enormous benefits it brought to his country in happier days and the fact that, whether money flows into his country or out of it, it largely depends on how well or badly he runs the economy.

Another lesson is that, once the free market is embraced, it is virtually impossible to reverse the process. Dr Mahathir's sudden ban on short-selling and Indonesia's weekend introduction of selective currency controls have merely provoked mistrust and a further loss of confidence among investors.

A third truth to emerge is that the



JANET BUSH

International Monetary Fund's influence on world financial events is extremely limited. Since the Mexican peso crisis in late 1994, the international community has worked hard on improving surveillance, developing early warning signals and pushing countries into publishing accurate and timely economic data to help in this effort. In reality, however, most governments lack the political will to change their economic policies until the markets force them to in an atmosphere of crisis (ask John Major).

The process is brutal but, as long as

free market principles are observed, the discipline of the market brings its own reward. In the case of Mexico, the huge devaluation of the peso has brought a boom in exports and industrial production which has smoothed the way to partial economic recovery. Inflation rocketed, of course, but has subsequently dropped sharply from peak levels. Britain and Italy, forced to abandon pegging their currencies within the exchange-rate mechanism, have prospered to become two of the countries most fit to join monetary union (and risk making the same mistake twice).

And so to another key lesson from the current mess in Asia. Running open economies with fixed currencies is a

highly dangerous game. By abandoning their erstwhile pegs to the US dollar and allowing their currencies to devalue, several troubled Asian countries have ensured their eventual recovery.

Hong Kong's peg to the dollar leaves it reliant on its reserves, now pooled with the formidable war chest of China. But once the dust settles, Hong Kong will also hope that the investor herd now thundering indiscriminately out of all Asian markets, whatever their different fundamentals, will become more selective. Asian values may stand some in good stead. Chile escaped the worst of the Latin American rout two years ago, courtesy partly of its high savings and investment rate which left it less vulnerable when foreign money departed. High savings is one phenomenon that has always been regarded as an enviable Asian value. Singapore, for one, ought to find partial immunity because of it.

Era of change as toy group seeks game plan to get back on track

Jason Nissé looks at the management model that is refocusing Beatties

Down among the model railways and the subterranean football teams, trouble is brewing. Era Group, owner of the Beatties model shops and the Techno and Fox Talbot camera shops, is to undergo a radical reshaping.

The troubled retailer shocked its followers last week when it revealed losses of £13.3 million for the year to February 28, figures that were so bad that even two profits warnings could not have been adequate preparation.

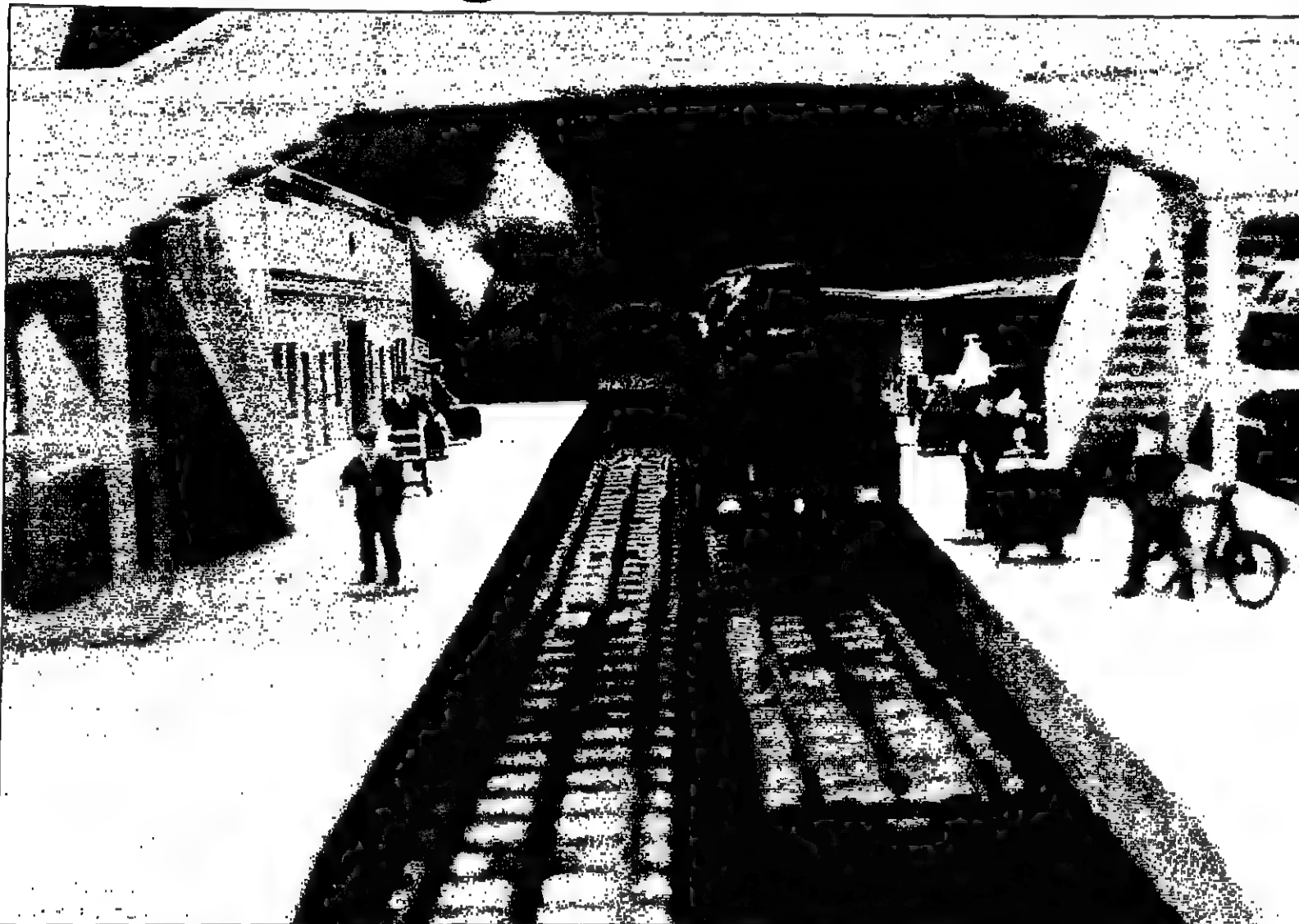
But all is not lost. The largely unnoticed appointment of Archie Coulson as a non-executive director two months ago was the signal of something more fundamental: namely that Postern Executive Group, the group which Coulson helped to found to help troubled companies, is now in charge at Era.

The arrival of Coulson and his colleague Ian Gray — who has also become a director — is the culmination of a dreadful performance by Era over almost a decade. By rights, the group should be booming — windfalls from building society flotations have boosted most areas of consumer spending, particularly camera sales — and an expansion by Beatties had moved it into the potentially lucrative market for computer consoles and games. However, a series of management shake-ups, strategic re-thinks, overexpansion and underinvestment has meant that, in spite of raising £52 million from shareholders just over three years ago, the group is back in the mire.

Tony Caplin, Era's new chairman, said that there may be disposals. There has been talk of selling Beatties and of a takeover by Luke Johnson, the entrepreneur behind the successful float of PizzExpress. However, Coulson and co dismissed those ideas and, though the final game plan is not set in stone, one thing is certain: Era is keeping Beatties.

Postern was set up by Coulson, Stan Carls and Ken Scobie seven years ago as a specialist corporate restructuring business. It has a reasonable track record in turning companies round. Many of its appointments have been for behind-the-scenes work, but among the deals in the public domain have been the restructuring of MTM, the chemicals business, Richard Lines, MTM's former chairman, and Thomas Baxter, the former finance director, were jailed for fraud this year. Other known deals include the successful sale of the Pavilion leisure business for the venture capitalists Cliven and Candover, bringing High-Point, the consultancy group, back to life, and failing to save Chamberlain Phipps, the shoemaker.

In the past, most of Postern's appointments came from banks worried about whether companies could pay their debts, though this has dropped to fewer than half of the recent appointments, with institutional investors, venture capitalists or even the managements themselves turning to Postern. "We tend to look at companies from more of an industry



With the arrival of Archie Coulson, Postern, which has a reasonable track record in turning companies round, has now taken charge at Era

perspective than accountants or bankers might," says Coulson. "We will often restructure a business so someone can be brought in to take it forward."

That is pretty much the game plan at Era, which Coulson believes is suffering from a "lack of flair". The Postern

ultimate classification — anoraks. However, the problem was that to increase volumes Beatties had moved into computer games, which, in spite of their success, are much lower margin than train sets. Scalextric model motor racing or Subbuteo table football. The

interesting strategy for the camera business, which it thinks has a great future. However, this may be blown off course by pressure from Era's bankers, who have given the group an overdraft limit of £12.6 million. Its current borrowings are £12.4 million. The official line is "a disposal of Techno at a sensible price could enhance shareholders' value". A sale memorandum has gone out, but no tears will be shed if the prices offered are not considered good enough to make a sale worthwhile.

Coulson believes that Techno has suffered from underinvestment and could make pretty well if it were "jazzed up". But he is more interested in the two Fox Talbot shops, which are specialists in pseudo-professional cameras, where the actual camera bodies or components can cost anything from £200 to £13,000 — the price of a Leica camera at Fox Talbot. Coulson wants to develop this into a small chain of no more than ten stores in

regional centres, buying and selling secondhand equipment as well as new cameras, offering upgrades and specialist advice. Techno would be able to accept secondhand cameras in part exchange, which could be sold through Fox Talbot. "It's an unexploited asset for somebody," Coulson says. "I wish I could get paid for my ideas."

Ultimately Postern sees its work at Era as basic house-keeping. Executives want to leave the group in such a position that a high-calibre retailer can be recruited to Beatties, which, by then, will be starting to move forward.

Coulson said: "If we can demonstrate there is the guts of a viable business, then you can say to a top retailer: 'Here is something you can create. There's a few bob salary and some share options which could really be worth something if you make this work.' It's an attractive sales pitch — even if you aren't a train-spotter."

6 We look at companies from more of an industry perspective than accountants or bankers might

team immediately took the view that selling Beatties would be a mistake. The business has a clear market niche in modelling and collectables, says Coulson. Within Beatties there was a great deal of expertise — many of the senior management were train set collectors themselves who have divided the regular customers into three categories: big kids, interested modellers and — the

decision on whether to stay in the computer games area has yet to be "officially" taken, though Postern knows it will have to shrink the Beatties chain from its current 70 stores to come what may. Coulson's belief is that Beatties has to ditch computer games, though the withdrawal may now not take place before this year's key pre-Christmas sales period.

Postern also worked out an

Stuck on greed

A SUITABLE mark of respect from the Inland Revenue, after the tragedy at the weekend. The Revenue's campaign reminding us all of the need to fill in our tax forms by the end of this month was to be launched at Somerset House today, featuring an elephant as a photo-opportunity. The silly stunt has been cancelled.

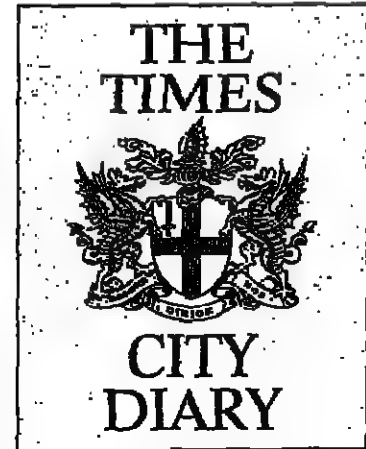
And a rather less appealing display of greed from the Far East. Stamp collectors in Hong Kong are rushing to buy a special 1989 commemorative issue featuring Diana.

Princess of Wales. The issue has a face value of about £35. The Princess's death led to a rush for the stamps, and dealers jacked the prices up to more than £1,200 — while pulling supplies off the shelves in the hope of higher prices later.

● A DIGNIFIED minute's silence in the City. Then back to the normal round of poaching and backstabbing. I hear one high-flyer is heading for Deutsche Kleinwort Benson, as global head of marketing, whatever that may be. Nigel Lester is the name being whispered around Kleinwort's brutal Fenchurch Street offices, on a huge salary, too. Lester was global head of research at UBS until he slipped away, virtually unnoticed, three months ago. My sources at Kleinwort expect him shortly, although it is not yet a done deal. They do not expect his arrival, in a new, ill-defined role, to be greatly welcomed. They expect trouble, and soon.

Gap spied

A CURIOUS gap in his curriculum vitae for Ronnie Baird, the man shortly to lead the Bank of England's banking supervision team. At Lloyd's TSB Baird was once "Head of the Special Projects Department" in the international banking division. "This covert operation was established in



February 1989," says the CV. The Bank of England professes ignorance about this "covert operation" and Lloyd's is not saying. Something to do with its extensive business in Latin America? Does Ronnie Baird know anything about exploding cigars? Is there a connection between Baird's appointment and that of Deanne Julius, the former British Airways economist joining the Bank's monetary policy committee who freely admits to starting her career with the Central Intelligence Agency?

Hello Hello!

I LEAVE it to you to decide if this is deliberate parody. Post-Modernist irony, or whatever. The normally sane, not to say dull, trade mag Property Week has found a way of filling

space during those flat weeks of August, when headlines such as "Swift to Marylebone Plaza dispute expected" may be hard to come by. Instead, turn to "Sailing with the Slades" (Michael Slade of Helical Bar) and "At home with the Fletchers" (David Fletcher of Fletcher King), all done in strict adherence to the Hello! style. Right down to the red-boxed scene-setters and the awful prose, I almost fear for the Fletchers' and the Slades' marriages, given such pieces' reputation as the last step before the divorce courts.

One of the Slade brood apparently shares my fears. "I hope this isn't for Hello!" pleads Katie, 23. Her mum Heather admits: "We've already turned them down twice."

● RICHARD LAMBERT, king over the water at the Financial Times, is being careful with the pennies while entertaining his staff, as I reported on Saturday — he took them out for a meal and split the bill. But the Pink 'Un itself is not stinting on the editor's stay in New York. The amiable Lambert is being put up on the posh Upper East Side, rented from the Nastase, the former tennis star, for a year. For how much? A staggering \$30,000 a month, I am told.

Spin doctored

SWISS LIFE is marking its 30th anniversary in this country with a party at the Eve Club on Regent Street. The invitation is an old-fashioned 33 rpm vinyl long-player, the sleeve yet

another spoof of Sergeant Pepper, released in 1967. Inside there is a genuine plastic record. No one at Swiss Life knows which — someone bought a job lot of 1960s discs. With my luck, mine is Herman's Hermits.

Very chic, very retro. The Eve Club, you see, was where Stephen Ward met Christine Keeler. But hang on, Swiss Life UK started up in the Summer of Love. It says here. Wasn't Profumo, Keeler and all that at least four years earlier? "Between the Lady Chatterley ban and the Beatles' first LP?" Another era entirely. Still, they do say if you remember the Sixties you weren't really there.

MARTIN WALLER



The original Beatles album cover, which has been used as the basis for a 30th anniversary party invitation by Swiss Life

OVER 'ERE SON, ON ME 'EAD.

bench n. 1 prolonged and frustrating period of inactivity as a result of failing to make first team 2 used in a collective sense to refer to the judges or magistrates in a court.

encroachment v. 1 "Oi ref! They're never ten yards!" (see walls at free kicks) 2 unlawfully entering upon another's rights or possessions.

contract n. 1 piece of paper that means very little to certain footballers and their agents 2 a legally binding agreement.

negative clearance n. 1 maximum distance, minimum direction, just hoof it anywhere (see traditional English centreback) 2 Procedure whereby parties to an agreement seek a declaration that does not come within the scope of the Treaty of Rome's anti-competition laws.

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"I'm afraid he's popped out for the afternoon... him too... him as well... er, him as well... I'm afraid..."

44-1571-15A

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Consideration for site was redevelopment

Regina v Brent London Borough Council, Ex parte O'Malley

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Judge

[Judgment July 31]

Section 61 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 did not require a local authority to set aside the sum representing the true value of its development to a private company when the consideration for the site was not money but the entire redevelopment of the site by the company for which the local authority would make a certain contribution.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by Mr Eugene O'Malley against the refusal of Lord Justice Schiemann, sitting as a judge of the High Court, on March 13, 1997 of his application for judicial review of the decision taken by the policy and resources committee of the council on June 26, 1996 approving a framework agreement between the local authority and New Horizons (Brent) Ltd by which the local authority would transfer its freehold interest in the site to the company.

Mr John Howell, QC and Mr Nigel Giffin, for Mr O'Malley; Miss Presley Baxendale, QC, Mr Michael Fordham and Mr Andrew Hunter for Brent.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE.

delivering the judgment of the court, said that the Chalkhill Estate in the London Borough of Brent was divided into two estates: the Bison Estate and the Scientist Estate. From the outset the Bison Estate, comprising 1,276 flats, proved a constant source of problems and eventually the local authority decided on a comprehensive scheme for its demolition and redevelopment.

In 1993 a design and development contest was arranged. In April 1994 the local authority's housing committee confirmed that the successful submission had been made by a consortium consisting of Wimpey (UK) Ltd and Metropolitan Housing Trust Ltd (MHT).

Accordingly, the local authority entered into an agreement with the company owned by Wimpey and MHT, New Horizons (Brent) Ltd. That company had no assets save for those with which the scheme of its obligations was limited to the extent of its available assets under the scheme.

The objectives of the scheme approved on June 24 were summarised by Lord Justice Schiemann: "The local authority would transfer its freehold interest in various parts of the Bison Estate to New Horizons for at most nominal monetary consideration; before any part of the estate was transferred the local authority would rehouse the occupants of the

1,276 dwellings affected. After clearance, an area of not more than nine acres would be disposed for the development of a super-market; part of the site was to be developed by Wimpey for private owner occupation and the remainder would be developed to provide up to 450 new units of social housing and a park.

In relation to the Scientist Estate, Lord Justice Schiemann found, inter alia, that the local authority was to transfer it to New Horizons on condition that New Horizons had a contract with MHT to acquire the freehold for £2 million.

It was envisaged that MHT would lease back those dwellings to the local authority whose tenants had not indicated that they wished to become tenants of MHT and the local authority would pay £2.5 million for those leases. The fabric of the whole estate would be refurbished by MHT and the local authority would pay a subsidy up to a maximum of £7.68 million.

The major contention advanced on behalf of Mr O'Malley was that the arrangements made by the council conflicted with the statutory provisions which regulated financial arrangements made by local authorities.

The agreement committed the local authority to substantial long term expenditure of £25.2 million, assuming receipt of £8 million, the super-market value and the refinancing of a deferred purchase agreement of £7.6 million. Making

those assumptions, the programme anticipated a cumulative deficit of £8.928 million.

The critical area of argument between Mr Howell and Miss Baxendale arose in connection with section 61 of the 1989 Act which applied to what were described as capital receipts not wholly paid in money to the local authority.

Mr Howell submitted that the local authority's decision to proceed on the basis that there was no requirement to set aside any of the proceeds of the disposals under the framework agreement to meet credit liabilities contravened section 61 because it was obliged to determine what the consideration would have been for those disposals if it had been wholly in money. That obligation extended to each individual disposal.

Therefore, he argued, the Scientist Estate should have been valued as it stood on the basis of a sale to a willing purchaser. The best calculation of that figure was £7.5 million which should have been treated as a capital receipt; 75 per cent should have been set aside.

Mr Howell's submission thus meant that before the framework agreement could have been approved the local authority, and any other local authority in the same position, would have to make arrangements for 75 per cent, or the prescribed proportion, of the

sum which had not and would never be received to be set aside.

In their Lordships' judgment, if so designed, legislation designed to prevent extravagant dissipation of local authority assets would have the effect of nullifying proposals deemed desirable by the local authority.

The consideration to which section 61 applied required analysis of the framework agreement as a whole. It would be wholly artificial to approach a complex transaction by reference to the terms which involved disposal of the local authority's assets without including the corresponding advantages derived from the agreement by the local authority.

The effect would be to create a fictitious rather than a nominal capital receipt while simultaneously obliging the local authority to set aside substantial sums from real funds.

From the local authority's point of view the framework agreement conferred a significant benefit: to achieve those perceived advantages the authority was prepared to dispose of some of its assets.

In their Lordships' judgment, for the purposes of section 61, the consideration involved an evaluation of the whole transaction encompassed in the framework agreement, and was limited to the value of any individual disposals which formed part of it.

Solicitors: Mr Paul Im Thurm, Brent; Mr Paul Barber, Brent.

Judge has power to refuse relief despite flaw

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Walters

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Judge

[Judgment July 31]

It was perfectly within the discretion of the judge to refuse to grant relief in the terms which the proceedings despite finding that the consultation process prescribed by statute was flawed.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by Aston Ellistord Walters against the refusal of Lord Justice Schiemann, sitting as a High Court judge, on March 13, 1997, of Mr Walters' application for judicial review of the decision of the Secretary of State for the Environment on June 24, 1996 consenting to the redevelopment of the Chalkhill Estate in Westminster.

Mr John Howell, QC and Mr Nigel Giffin, for Mr Walters; Mr Jeremy Sullivan, QC and Mr Ian Burnett for the Secretary of State.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE, delivering the judgment of the court, said that Mr Walters was a secure tenant on the Scientist Estate, part of the Chalkhill Estate. He was mainly concerned with two of the elements of the scheme: first the disposal of the freehold of the whole of the Chalkhill Estate and second the leaseback from MHT, the redevelopers, to the local authority of the dwellings on the Scientist Estate where the tenants had not indicated a wish to become tenants of MHT.

After considering the substantial bundle of documents and affidavits, and submissions on behalf of

the Secretary of State, Lord Justice Schiemann had concluded that the consultation process prescribed by statute was flawed.

He identified two particular steps in the process which required the consent of the Secretary of State, first, the original disposal, that is, the disposal of the whole estate to a private landlord, and second, the subsequent disposal, that is the lease back from MHT to the local authority of the properties on the Scientist Estate occupied by tenants who wished to remain council tenants.

In summary, the consultation process in relation to the original disposal was held to be flawed because it was conducted by the local authority on the basis that the disposal of their properties in the Scientist Estate would be limited to dwellings occupied by tenants who voted positively that those properties should be transferred to MHT whereas the scheme in its final form provided that all the properties should be included in the transfer whether or not the tenants had voted in favour.

Moreover, there was no consultation specifically directed to the transfer of the relevant interests to New Horizons and furthermore, none of the consultation process was directed to the subsequent disposal back to the local authority by way of lease back. Nevertheless, as a matter of discretion, Lord Justice Schiemann refused to grant relief.

In exercising his discretion, Lord Justice Schiemann noted the precise flaws in an extensive consultation process. He recognised that he would not lightly condone the by-passing of consultation requirements imposed by statute.

He took account of the argument that the majority of tenants on the estate favoured the scheme because of its manifest benefits. He then warned himself that if the consultation process had been properly implemented the reaction of the majority of tenants might have been different, and indeed might have resulted in the application of paragraph 5 of Schedule 3A of the Housing Act 1985, as inserted by section 6(2) and (3) of the Housing Act 1988, as inserted by section 6(2) and (3) of the Housing Act 1988, and Schedule 1 to the Housing and Planning Act 1986, and prevented the consent being given, whatever the Secretary of State's views about the merits of the scheme.

He then considered the interests of those who were "clearly anxious for this scheme to go ahead for reasons which are obvious: the conditions in which they live are highly unsatisfactory".

He took account of every point available to Mr Walters, his legitimate interests, an entitlement, and the effect on him of non-compliance with the consultation process. He noted that Mr Walters was the only tenant to make the application and that he had waited for three months before doing so.

He concluded that the effect on his legal rights would be minimal or non-existent. Subject to an appropriate undertaking ensuring that Mr Walters's right to buy was preserved, he concluded in all the circumstances that he should refuse to grant relief.

In their Lordships' judgment there was no basis for them to interfere with Lord Justice Schiemann's exercise of his discretion and the appeal was dismissed.

Solicitors: Mr Paul Im Thurm, Brent; Treasury Solicitor.

Health authority operated unlawful policy

Regina v North Derbyshire Health Authority, Ex parte Fisher

Before Mr Justice Dyson

[Judgment July 11]

Where a health authority was shown to be operating a policy in effect opposed to that contained in a National Health Service circular it was acting unlawfully and would be ordered to put in place a policy conforming with the policy set out in that circular.

Mr Justice Dyson so held in the Queen's Bench Division granting an application by Kenneth Graeme Fisher for judicial review of the North Derbyshire Health Authority's decision to decline to fund his treatment with beta interferon. The Secretary of State for Health was joined as an interested party.

In December 1989 Mr Fisher was diagnosed as suffering from multiple sclerosis. In 1995 he was referred to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital and assessed by a consultant neurologist to be suitable for the drug beta interferon.

In fact the drug had been "red lined" by the Health Authority which meant it had to be specially

authorised as it was so expensive. The chief executive of the health authority refused to authorise the prescription as the authority had insufficient funds.

There followed correspondence between the applicant's parents, the health authority, the local member of Parliament and the Prime Minister, Mr John Major, as to when the drug would be prescribed to the applicant.

The health authority stated its policy was to fund the drug only as part of a proposed nationwide random trial test or a local trial. Following a speech by the Secretary of State for Health saying that to ban treatment of the drug would not be acceptable, minutes of meetings of the health authority stated: "It was noted in the light of Stephen Dorrell's speech that a blanket ban was not acceptable however it might be possible to have creative constraints".

On May 2, 1996 the health authority issued a statement that there was no question of a blanket ban on the drug but in practice it was not setting up a local trial or joining in a nationwide trial.

In its budget the authority had set aside £50,000 for the drug. That

money was not spent and that part of the budget was cancelled when the authority found it had overspent on its overall budget.

NHS Circular EL 95 (97) dated November 15, 1995 requested purchasing authorities and providers within the NHS to develop and manage the entry of drugs like the drug into the NHS and in particular to initiate and continue prescribing beta interferon through hospitals.

Mr John Grace, QC and Mr Jason Gellibrath-Marten for the applicant; Mr Anthony Says Llewellyn for the health authority; Mr David Elvin for the Secretary of State for Health.

MR JUSTICE DYSON said it was clear that the circular both in substance and form was advisory and not mandatory. The only duty placed on the health authority was to take it into account in the discharge of its functions.

The policy of the health authority in 1996 was to prescribe the drug only within a trial. That policy was under a duty to give serious consideration to the contents of the circular. The circular gave guidance on how the drug

could be introduced into the NHS and requested that appropriate patients for the drug be targeted.

The probable aim of a trial was not to prescribe drugs in order to treat patients but to test their efficacy. Thus the policy of the health authority could not at any time be described as being within the circular.

This was not a case of a health authority considering national policy within a circular and departing from it. The authority was opposed to the policy and decided to disregard it. That was something it was not entitled to do.

The authority produced evidence that following the postponement of the national trial it operated special cases only criteria in respect of the drug. Its evidence on that aspect was so unsatisfactory that it was not possible to conclude what the special cases were.

The evidence of the authority as regards the £50,000 in its budget for the use of the drug was almost non-existent.

The affidavit of Dr McConville, the director of public health of the health authority, revealed that the £50,000 could have been released

and used on the drug. The health authority gave no acceptable reasons why that was not done.

In particular the minutes of the meeting of the authority of November 19, 1996 in which it was stated there could be no recommendation of a change of policy, were disingenuous as in fact there was no policy to prescribe the drug.

His Lordship concluded the authority's policy as regards the drug was unlawful. The authority was aware at an early stage that its policy was unlawful and there was a blanket ban on the prescription of the drug.

The phrase "creative constraints" was a surprising one in the context of health care.

A declaration was granted that the authority's policy was unlawful; an order was made quashing its decision to decline to prescribe the drug to the applicant and it was ordered to fund and implement a policy which took into account the policy of the circular within a period of 14 days in view of its conduct.

Solicitors: Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield; Wansboroughs Willey Hargrave, Sheffield; Treasury Solicitor.

Sentences form single term

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Walters

Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Ladd

[Judgment July 29]

When a court reactivated part of an unserved prison term at the same time as imposing a sentence of imprisonment for a new offence, the order for return and the new sentence constituted a single term.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing the application of Andrew Walters for judicial review of the decision of the Secretary of State for the Home Department to treat him as a long-term prisoner.

Mr Henry Staxland for the

applicant; Mr Steven Kovacs for the respondent.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the applicant had committed an offence of burglary while on licence from an earlier sentence. The court ordered him to return to prison for 16 months of his unserved sentence, under section 40 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, to be followed by a sentence of three years and 11 months imprisonment in respect of the new offence.

The applicant had contended that section 51(2) of the 1991 Act, which provided that consecutive terms should be treated as a single term, did not apply to section 40 since there was no power in section

40 to make a reactivated sentence consecutive to a new sentence. Therefore, he had argued, the two terms should be treated separately, meaning him a short-term prisoner in respect of each.

In the court's judgment that was wrong. Section 40(4)(a) expressly provided that a section 40 order was to be a sentence of imprisonment for the purposes of Part II of the 1991 Act.

Since section 51(2) was in Part II of the Act it followed that it applied, and the order for return, whether served before or concurrently with the new sentence, constituted a single term with the new sentence.

Solicitors: Saunders & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

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Temples to team spirits

Last night Bolton Wanderers kicked off in a stunning new stadium. Marcus Binney reports on our new sporting cathedrals

For decades the local football club's grandstand has been an eyesore second only to the town gasholder. No longer. The latest stadiums are triumphs of high-tech architecture and engineering to be set alongside the most adventurous airports and bridges. They are, say some, the cathedrals of our time. And four magnificent new examples open this season, at Derby, Stoke City, Sunderland (the so-called "Stadium of Light") and — topping them all — the new 25,000-seater, £30.8 million Bolton Wanderers stadium. It opened last night, it is named after Reebok (the major sponsor), and it is built without a penny of lottery funding.

As you drive north up the M61 four giant stick-insects loom into view, craning inwards as if looking into a crib. These are the three-legged towers that support the long, clear spans of the stadium roofs, their diamond heads designed to hold batteries of floodlights. Dale Jennings of Lobb Sports, the architects, says: "Our brief was clear. The club wanted a major landmark."

Built on a 200-acre site north of the city, this is far more than a simple football ground. Rather, it is a whole "leisure village", planned to include a sports training centre, tennis courts, an athletics track and community football pitches. Inside there are conference, exhibition and banqueting facilities on offer seven days a week, with further space available for large shopping malls. The Antiques Road Show is coming in November, followed by rock concerts. Tunnel entrances at the corners allow articulated lorries to drive in and unload equipment direct on stage. "There's nothing like it in Britain," boasts the club's spokesman, Alan Fulllove.

Though the highest seats are 75 feet above the ground, the whole stadium can be emptied in just eight minutes. And for the first time disabled seating has been provided on the second level, sealed off in its

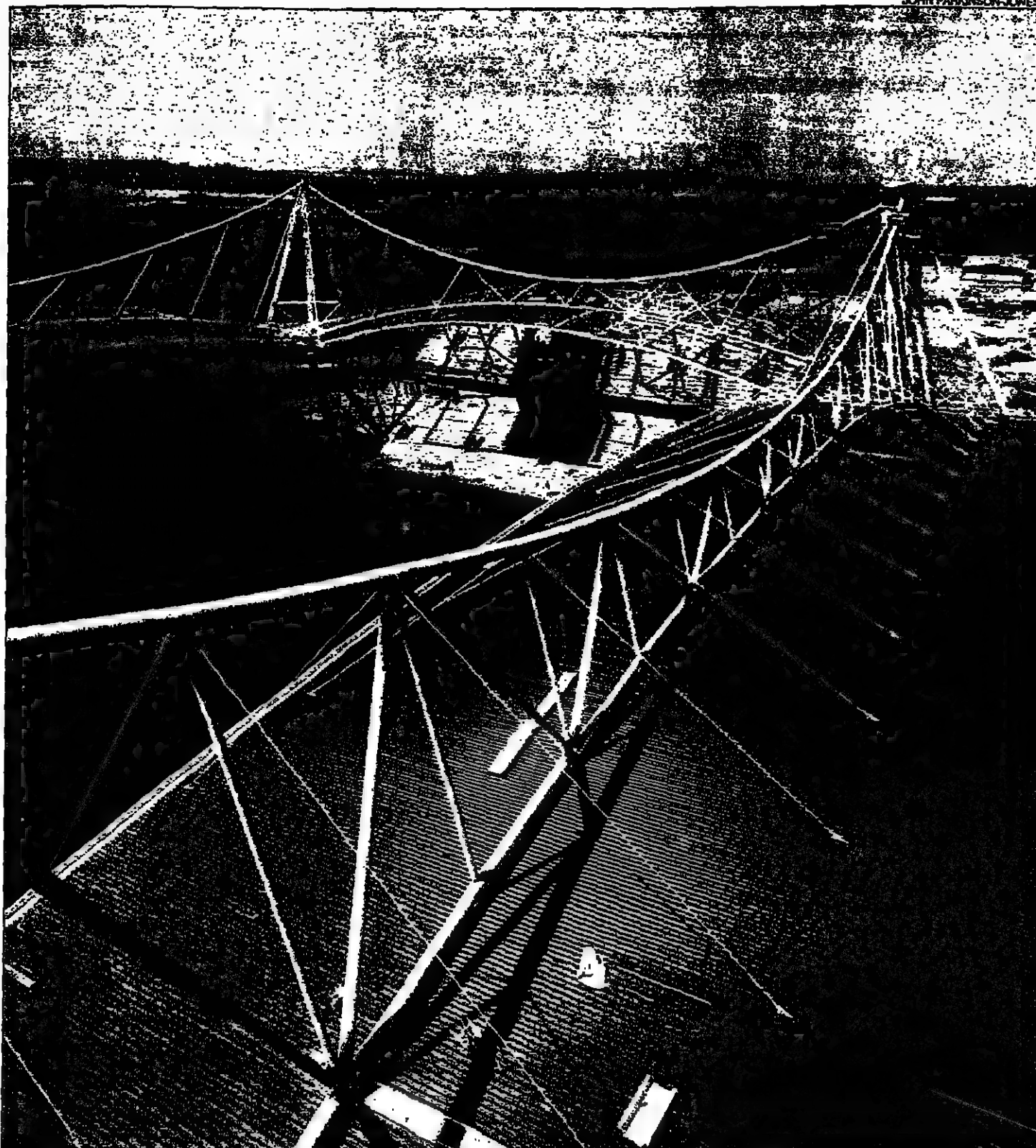
own protection zone with escape facilities across a covered bridge into an adjoining building. Construction has been completed in just 15 months, but the hallowed grass was sown a season before the builders arrived. Flat-bladed spring grass is mixed with rye to provide just the right element of bounce. "It's grown in 11 inches of loam, meshed in with filaments like human hair, making it virtually impossible to kick up a divot," says Phil Hampson, resident engineer.

For pop concerts, the whole ground can be floored over with five-sided interlocking pieces, which do no harm if taken up within 24 hours. Beneath the grass, 22 miles of heated water pipes ensure that the pitch is never too hard to play on.

In the new all-seater stadiums, sightlines are as important as in any London theatre. "The aim was to keep all spectators within 90 metres of the centrepiece," says Jennings, "and to give people a clear line of sight to the edge of the pitch over the heads in front." Leg room has been increased too. "I am six foot four, and at Manchester United's ground, Old Trafford, I struggle with 27 inches of legroom. People are getting taller, so at Bolton we've provided 33 inches."

Sponsors have 44 boxes, each opening through French windows onto ten outside seats, with a ten-foot drop below so that no one can look in. Food is cooked in the club's kitchens and then heated up by hostesses. "We hope to cater for 5,500 on match days," says Hampson. It is all part of a strategy to turn a match into a whole-day event, with replays of the last away game being broadcast from mid-day onwards, bringing peak arrival times of the fans forward two hours.

The new era of stadium architecture began at Huddersfield last year where Tony Hunt, the engineer of the new terminus at



Bolton's new 25,000-seater, £30.8 million stadium has tennis courts, an athletics track, exhibition facilities and space for shopping malls

Waterloo, had a hand. At Bolton, the engineers Deskin Callard, working with Watson Steel, take the high-tech conjuring a stage further. The huge, gently arching roofs weigh in at a cool 1,800 tons and are suspended from dramatic inward-leaning trusses. It looks like a cantilever bridge construction, but in fact it is a straightforward arch.

Jennings explains: "A roof like this is more likely to take off in strong wind than fall down. We've left it partially open at the back to ensure

an even flow of air above and below." The open back creates the problem that the supporting roar of the crowd could escape. The architects counteract it by forming the lower tier of seating as a single bowl. The new all-seater stadiums create another problem: "People don't sing in seats as readily as when standing on terraces. But the club is looking at ways of seating good singers together. If one group starts, it catches on."

The new stadium at Bolton is a three-way partnership between the

local authority, which gave the land, a developer, and a club, helped along by EU and Football Trust grants. It has opened absolutely debt-free.

By contrast to Bolton's extravaganzas, Sunderland has gone for economy, achieving 41,600 seats for little more than £20 million. The Stoke and Derby stadiums, meanwhile, have been designed by the Miller Partnership, whose Ibrox stadium in Glasgow was singled out for favourable mention in the Taylor report. Peter Smith, a part-

ner, says: "The key elements of the new stadiums are safety, sightlines, spectator comfort and movement, cost effectiveness, architectural expression and commercial potential."

A great feature of the new stadiums are the roofs. Bolton's is as wide as the motorway, dramatically waved and undulating. With silhouettes like these, the dozens of new and remodelled football stadiums now being built seem set to become the dominant 21st-century landmarks of Britain.

AROUND THE ART GALLERIES

WHEN he died earlier this year, aged 71, Alistair Grant was best known as a print-maker. Before his retirement he had worked in the print-making department of the Royal College for 35 years, and had been its head for the last six; he had influenced generations of students.

But in his own mind he was still a painter first and foremost, and after retirement he had concentrated almost exclusively on painting. It is therefore fitting that the memorial exhibition at Art First is also devoted to the paintings. It is a mini-retrospective, but only of the last quarter-century. The figurative works of Grant's youth are ignored, and even his gradual transition in the Sixties from figuration to abstraction.

The story is taken up in the early Seventies, when he was well on with his reduction of recognisable subjects (the Battle of Agincourt, the female figure) to formal abstractions, as though reliving Cubism for himself. But even in his most freeform abstracts of the Eighties, the spectre of landscape seems to be lurking somewhere, if only in a sense of light shifting across a canvas, a special opalescence of colouring. Grant was always a great, subtle colourist, and his widely underestimated work will surely last.

Art First, First Floor, 9 Cork Street, W1 (0171-734 0356); Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-2pm, until Sept 25

IF THE Grant show is the first of autumn, the show of Louis Wain at Chris Beetles is surely the last of summer, his cat pictures now to be put away until it is time to be thinking of Christmas presents. Wain was famous for painting funny, curious and cute cats, to the virtual exclusion of any other subjects; and for then going mad and continuing to paint cats, only wilder, weirder and sometimes quite menacing. All phases of his career are represented here, including his designs of Cubist and Futurist cats for commercial potteries. (Some thought that helped to make him mad.) In addition to Wain there are several more cat illustrators shown.

Chris Beetles, 8 & 10 Ryder Street, SW1 (0171-839 7551); Mon-Sat 10.5.30, to Friday

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Richard Cork's column will appear tomorrow

BBC PROMS: New orchestral work, and a night of jazz from Cleo and John

Swedish gem set in marble

An ache of communal grief was released at the Proms on Sunday in the falling intervals of *Nimrod* from Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. The piece, a perfectly judged tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, followed a minute's silence in a subdued Albert Hall.

The Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen, began its scheduled programme with the British premiere of an eight-minute work by the Swede, Anders Hillborg. His compositions, he declares, range from "conventional rock music to wild experiment with microtonal structures"; *Liquid Marble* clearly falls into the latter category.

From the second bar on, microtones tease and torment the music's texture as first the dissonant interval of the tritone and then a consonant perfect fifth are successively distorted by brass and woodwinds, and whipped into hys-

teria by clarinets. Rising chords and fast scales alternate and interweave, the scales like veins in the static chill of the marble. As more distinct, jazzy rhythms urged the work to its final acceleration, Salonen's understanding as a composer himself was revealed. He brought clarity even to a first hearing of this strange, anguished work.

The programme was dominated by two classic reworkings of the symphony: Sibelius's Third and Stravinsky's *Symphony in Three Movements*. Salonen's way with Sibelius is stern and terse; the baton may not sweep all before it like that of Colin Davis, nor search for the music's innermost energies like that of Osmo Vänskä. But Salonen makes Sibelius our contemporary: relentless motivic insistence, rhythmic rigour and diamond-cut ensemble make the music uncompromising, new-minded.

Before a similarly demand-

ing Stravinsky performance, which revealed the muscular strings and mellow, rich-toned woodwind of this orchestra, the American soprano Dawn Upshaw made an eloquent contribution to the Proms' Britten survey with a robust performance of his early orchestral song-cycle, *Les Illuminations*. Upshaw springs to vocal life in the French language. Her response to Rimbaud's imaginative world brought a highly-strung, animal energy to the poet's Symbolist vision.

It was Salonen and this orchestra who made the first recording of Lutoslawski's

Third Symphony; and the composer's Cello Concerto was given a riveting performance the night before by Paul Watkins and the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Tadaaki Otaka. Watkins, principal cello of the BBCSO, fused elegant precision with a sense of fugitive fantasy — a fantasy, this 1970 Polish work seems to say, in the face of all that is regimented, standardised. This outstanding performance was followed by a bland and less memorable account of Brahms's First Symphony.

HILARY FINCH

Stars and bards

THE John 'n' Cleo show rolls on imperiously. The orchestral portion of this joint seventieth birthday programme may have been uneven — too many low-calorie excerpts, not enough red meat — but Cleo Laine's ability to swing an audience was clearly not inhibited by the ghost of Sir Henry Wood.

Dankworth's jazzier fans would probably have preferred to have seen his birthday celebrated by his Generation Band, a distinguished amalgam of young and old. His sextet was at least on hand for this occasion, even if it tended to be overshadowed by the combined forces of the BBC Big Band and BBC Concert Orchestra.

A middle-of-the-road pop mood was immediately established with the overture from *Strike Up the Band*, followed by *Belleville Blue*, an original piece boasting an over-ripe arrangement for soprano saxophone and strings that would not sound out of place on the Melody FM playlist.

What *The Dickens!*, an early Sixties suite, was reduced to tantalisingly brief dimensions, though it did have the forceful Tim Garland occupying the part in the saxophone duel originally taken by Tubby Hayes.

Another Sixties work, *Zodiac Variations*, an ingenious journey through the astrological chart, came in a less truncated form, yielding some

Cleo Laine/
John Dankworth
Albert Hall/Radio 2

of the most energetic playing of the evening from trumpeter Guy Barker. The brief new commission, *Double Vision*, was a characteristically intricate arrangement, the centre of gravity artfully shifting between the reeds and brass.

But Dankworth's most impressive work today tends to lie in settings of standards. While the *Shakespeare Fantasia*, with Laine on vocals, was a heavy-handed adaptation of the Bard, the writing for cello and bass in the setting of *Willow Weep For Me* was ravishingly beautiful. And if the funky, Basie-like arrangement of *St Louis Blues* has had plenty of airings in recent years, the clever manipulation of W.C. Handy's themes always repays attention.

Laine's multi-octave vocals perhaps do not flow quite as smoothly as they did 20 years ago, but there is a darker, more expressive edge to her singing. Adding Lorraine Feather's wistful lyrics to *Creole Love Call*, one of four Ellington songs, was an inspired touch. And *Fine and Mellow* was further proof, if needed, that the lady really can sing the blues.

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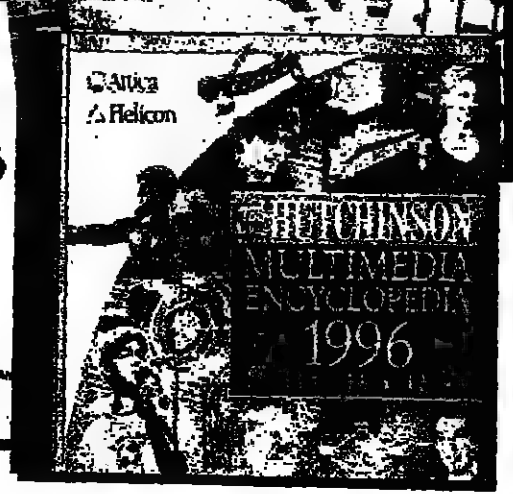
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LAW

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Schools drawn into litigation firing line

Teachers face more claims from pupils who have been bullied or injured, says Andrew Ford

Many litigators spend their time defending or bringing professional negligence claims. Usually the claims — and fees — are vast. Solicitors, accountants, surveyors and financial advisers are common defendants, while their insurers are the true target of the claim. Teachers have not been regarded as fair game — until now, that is.

Bullying is not new. But the increasing focus on that and other aspects of school life such as standards has put schools, and teachers, in the firing line. In November 1996, a claim by Sebastian Sharp, a former student of Shene School in southwest London, was settled out of court.

Mr Sharp claimed that his school had failed to take the steps that one would reasonably expect to stop and prevent the constant bullying he suffered for three years. The student claimed that this caused his schooling to suffer and precluded him from obtaining a well-paid job. The case did not reach trial, but the London Borough of Richmond's insurers paid him £30,000. Mr Sharp was represented by the aptly named Teacher Stern Selby. The same firm has made legal aid applications on behalf of two other clients who claim that their school (a different one) failed in its duty to educate them and that subsequent exam failures caused loss of earnings.

Though a bullying claim has never been proven at trial, the House of Lords has acknowledged that schools owe a duty to their pupils to take all reasonable steps to prevent them from being harmed, whether through bullying or otherwise. A duty of care with



Victims of school bullying may turn increasingly to the courts for compensation

regard to education has yet to be considered.

Last December the Court of Appeal approved the judgment whereby a rugby referee, Michael Nolan, was found liable to pay damages to a young prop forward who suffered paralysing injuries during a match. The trial judge was anxious not to open the "floodgates" and emphasised that a prime factor in his deciding that Mr Nolan owed a duty of care to the players was their youth. He said the same duty would not necessarily be owed by referees to older, more experienced players.

It is true of all sports that the most experienced referees are involved in top-class games,

whereas school matches will be refereed by maths, biology or geography teachers. These teachers and their schools must now wonder if they are exposing themselves to vast risks. If a pupil breaks an arm in a football match, will a school face a claim because he was unable to write his own exam scripts and his grades suffered as a result? Accidents will happen, in the playground or classroom, and teachers may become scapegoats.

The teaching profession had denounced the claim brought by Teacher Stern Selby and other lawyers with "enterprising" (they say) clients. Bullying will always be a problem, whatever measures schools

undertake. Inevitably, comparisons with America's "litigation culture" are drawn. Some people worry that bullied students will make claims for vast sums. Similarly, those who do not succeed at school will sue their teachers for breaching their "duty" to educate. If claims are common, then insurance excesses and premiums will eat into their budgets.

Such concerns are real and valid. However, there is a compelling counter-argument. I was recently approached by a mother whose son had suffered alarmingly at the hands of bullies. In a two-year period, he suffered ritual beatings, name-calling and had 14

pairs of spectacles broken during attacks by his peers. The school took no discernible action and compounded the situation when his form tutor continued the torment by humiliating the boy in class. His suffering and anxiety caused learning difficulties and compulsive, repetitive behaviour. His mother's concern was dismissed as unnecessary, over-protective fussing.

This was no inner-city "problem" school, but a fee-paying prep school of repute. The child's IQ has been measured by clinical psychologists as being in the top 4 per cent. When his mother, a university psychologist, told the school that she would be withdrawing her son, she was offered a discount of one term's fees. On her rejection of this offer, the school took action to restrict the choice of alternative schooling. The mother has suffered clinical depression and has been unable to work for months.

This is not an isolated case. Kidnap, a charity that concerns itself with bullying, hears similar stories daily.

Teachers and schools clearly owe a duty to pupils and parents to take reasonable steps to prevent suffering of this nature. Why should they not be answerable in a civil court when they fail? Corrective therapy and schooling are expensive. If families endure psychological harm, it seems reasonable that they should be compensated in tort. Parents have a contractual relationship with fee-paying schools, so why should they not claim for such breaches of contract?

When an accountant breaches a duty, millions of pounds can be lost to a financial institution. When a teacher fails in his/her duty, the consequences can be devastating financially, psychologically and emotionally to a child and his family.

● The author is a solicitor and a member of Withers' Professional Negligence Group.

Sexual revolution yet to be completed

Forty years ago this week — on September 4, 1957, to be precise — the Wolfenden Report on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution was published. The Departmental Committee had been set up three years earlier by Sir David Maxwell-Fyfe, at that time Home Secretary — hardly the most liberal holder of that office. In fact a decade later — as Lord Kilgobry and a former Lord Chancellor — he led the opposition to Lord Arran's reform Bill in the Lords.

The early Fifties had seen an increase in the numbers prosecuted for offences of "indecentry between males", culminating in the conviction and imprisonment of Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, Michael Pitt Rivers and Peter Wildeblood in March 1954. It was a time when police officers, often acting as "agents provocateurs", enthusiastically engaged in which hunts against homosexuals, encouraged and supported by the established Church, the political right wing — of all parties — and the tabloid press.

Nonetheless, the Montagu trials, with their accompanying prurient publicity, initiated a public discussion on the relationship between the criminal law and private morality. Debates were held in both Houses of Parliament. A report of the Church of England's Moral Welfare Committee concluded that though homosexual behaviour was sinful, it should not be treated as a crime. No doubt Maxwell-Fyfe's motives in establishing the committee were to kick the issue into political touch.

Wolfenden was almost the quintessential English public servant. A product of Wakefield Grammar School and The Queen's College, Oxford, he became a Fellow of Magdalen, headmaster of Uppingham at the age of 28, and Vice-Chancellor of Reading University. He has been described as "an ascetic, unsophisticated man, with a good mechanical brain but little imaginative flair". He must have seemed the ideal candidate to produce a "no change" recommendation. No one — least of all Wolfenden himself — would have seen him as a likely initiator of a revolution in sexual morality.

What was not publicly known at the time was that throughout this period his son Jeremy was living an openly and flamboyantly homosexual life in Oxford and London. One can hardly imagine our current press missing such an opportunity.

The Wolfenden recommendations were certainly ahead of their time, although with hindsight they could hardly be described as revolutionary. They proposed only the decriminalisation of gay sex, in private, where both parties were over the age of 21.

The committee, in discussing the age of

consent, took the view that "a boy is incapable, at the age of 16, of forming a mature judgment about actions of the kind which might have the effect of setting him apart from society" and settled on 21 for the simple — if simplistic — reason "that this is the age at which a man is capable of entering into legal contracts, including the contract of marriage, on his own responsibility". In proposing 21 — a recommendation which it conceded was based on "an element of arbitrariness", the committee ignored its own findings that "the main sexual pattern is laid down in the early years of life" and "is usually fixed by the age of 16".

Limited though the Wolfenden proposals were, it still took ten years, a change of government, and an important jurisprudential dispute between Herbert Hart and Patrick Devlin before they were enacted in the 1967 Sexual Offences Act. Even then, they were not applied to the Armed Forces or the Merchant Navy. Thereafter, 27 years of legislative silence were broken only by the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act, which reduced the age of consent to 18, created the offence of male rape, and decriminalised consensual buggery.

The most recent development in this area was the new Government's announcement in July that it no longer intended to contest the age-of-consent cases before the European Court of Human Rights. It was doing no more than bowing to the inevitable. It is widely accepted that with changes of mind and of personnel — after by-elections — an equal age of consent could have come in the last and unlamented Parliament if the necessary legislative opportunity had presented itself. Now it will come with a massive Commons majority possibly by way of an amendment to the Crime and Disorder Bill expected this autumn.

But the real importance of an equal age of consent is largely symbolic. What is urgently needed now is a huge overhaul of the sexual offences law. The current statutes are riddled with contradictions and inequalities. The existing consolidating Act is now more than 40 years old. Much of its language dates from 1885. Society has moved on since then.

What is needed is an important act of law reform, based on the concepts of sexual equality and of equality of sexuality across the board, which defends public decency, which is gender-neutral and which protects those under the age of consent. Only then will the revolution that John Wolfenden so reluctantly set in motion so long ago be complete.

● The author is President of the Bar Lesbian and Gay Group.



MARTIN BOWLEY, QC

Editors switch horses

THE EDITORS of the legal publishing group Legalease's two flagship products, *Legal Business* magazine and *The Legal 500*, have both moved to the legal recruitment firm Quarry Douglall to help it to launch a new, as yet unspecified, legal publishing venture.

Catrin Griffiths, who edited *Legal Business*, and Mark Brandon, who was responsible for the recently published *Legal 500*, are to spearhead what Quarry Douglall describes as a "strategic diversification" into publishing.

Garth Quarry, Quarry Douglall's chief executive, says: "The two joint Dominic Egan, the former *Legal Business* deputy editor. We are still at the early stages of development so I can't say more about the form our publications will take."

The new editor of *Legal Business* will be Martha Klein, a journalist and lawyer who practised at Simpson Thatcher & Bartlett, a Wall Street law firm.

● A new version of the standard textbook on libel and slander is out. Carter-Ruck on Libel and Slander, now in its fifth edition, by Butterworths, includes the latest statutes and case rulings, along with

INSURANCE OUTS

developments on contempt since the Contempt of Court Act 1981.

LA law?

THE legal aid firm set up in the 1970s by Henry Hodge, the current vice-chairman of the Legal Aid Board, is moving up in the world. It has just decamped into a new four-storey office block with air conditioning and the latest IT facilities. Some struggling legal aid lawyers will cite the move as evidence that a two-tier system of franchised haves and unfettered have-nots is starting to emerge.

Silk purse

MORE poaching of top lawyers by the banks. Barclays Private Bank has recruited Stephen Silman from chambers at 3 Temple Gardens as a private banker, to advise individuals with "substantial personal assets".

Rent asunder

JAMES CHAPMAN & Co, one of Manchester's big insurance law firms, is moving to the city centre at a rent "rising to" £13 a sq ft. John McKenna, senior partner, said it was a

prime location, but the rent was also a competitive advantage. "We aim to be the market leader," he adds, "and we don't think that the London firms, or the 'national' law firms which are paying far higher rents regionally, have an advantage like this."

● Last Friday, Eversheds, the national law firm, hosted the first seminar on Islamic real estate finance, organised by the Association of Muslim Lawyers, to discuss the challenges of setting up financial services compatible with both British and Islamic law.

Golden silence

CONFIDENTIALITY clauses are becoming key bargaining chips in personal injury settlements, according to Richard Meenan and Martyn Day, personal injury specialists at Leigh Day & Co. Writing in the newsletter of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, they note a growing tendency for UK companies to try to use confidentiality clauses to avoid publicity surrounding claims.

"The flip side of the coin," they say, "is that an offer of confidentiality by a plaintiff is undoubtedly a useful bargaining weapon which can be used to increase compensation. An opportunistic plaintiff might even offer ... to assist the defendant in obtaining favourable publicity in return for a further increase in damages."

SCRIVENOR

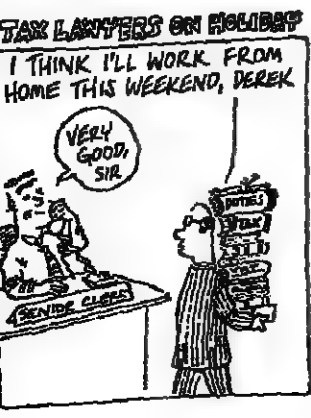
The ride approach



Horses and riders: a reorganised association

EQUINE lawyers are up and running. The Equine Lawyers' Association (ELA) has merged with Horse Law — the equine law and litigation reports edited by Dr Barry Peachy. The journal of the new ELA will be *Horse Law*. The association, to be chaired by Dr Peachy, has already launched an inquiry line, on 01652 654284.

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To find out more about opportunities with Baker & McKenzie in Central Asia, respond with cover letter and resumé to Joanna Darby, Baker & McKenzie, 100 New Bridge Street, London EC4V 6JA, England. Fax: (44-171) 919-1999. E-mail: jo.darby@bakernet.com. Interviews will be conducted in London between 8-10 September 1997.

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Chambers Directory 1997

The new issue of our directory is out this week. It includes two new tables: one showing client rankings of corporate finance firms, the other showing the leading general business lawyers.

The corporate finance survey put Freshfields in the lead, with Slaughter and May second, Linklaters third, Clifford Chance fourth, and Allen & Overy fifth. When asked to rank firms they had used, clients came up with a different order: Clifford Chance, Slaughter and May, Freshfields, Allen & Overy, and Linklaters.

Very different was the 'best business lawyer' survey. Here, FINE 500 firms were asked which lawyers they would recommend for their ability to provide imaginative and original solutions to business problems, regardless of legal specialism. They needed to be lawyers with broad legal knowledge and good business acumen.

It is sometimes said that such lawyers are a dying breed. Specialists have driven them out of law the smaller commercial firms. But clients seem to have found no difficulty in naming lawyers who fitted the bill. Of the dozens of lawyers recommended, eight stood out: Nigel Boardman (Slaughter and May), Richard Bond (Hart Smith), Miles Cave-Browne-Cave (Dentons Hall), Dan Mace (Lovel White Durrant), Barry O'Brien (Freshfields), Michael Pescod (Slaughter and May), Anthony Sale (Freshfields), and Mark Saunders (Nabarro Nathanson).

Many of the best all-round business lawyers, of course, are to be found in-house. They have to use their legal skills every kind of problem that arises, and take a businesslike approach when advising management.

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS' DIRECTORY
Our legal directory is available from Editors, 011-005-710 9771

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Company/Commercial: City

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Commercial: Surrey

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Commercial Litigation: City

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Employment: City

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The City picks the best

Frances Gibb
on who the
corporate
professionals
would choose to
represent them

Competition is cut-throat among City lawyers: slugging each other off is part of the game. But which of their peers do they secretly admire? Today Chambers & Partners, the legal publisher, releases the answer in its survey to find the Best Business Lawyer of 1997. The survey, one of several editorial sections in Chambers's new *Guide to the Legal Profession*, is based on 250 recommendations by in-house lawyers and company secretaries of whom they would choose as a top lawyer, with broad legal knowledge and good business acumen, who could "make things happen on a wide range of transactions".

Eight lawyers emerged in the top category. In alphabetical order, Nigel Boardman, of Slaughter and May, was described as "undoubtedly one of the leading lawyers in the City—brilliant all-round strengths" and was also commended for "excellent commercial awareness". Richard Bond (Herbert Smith) was picked as a "heavyweight negotiator, very commercial and with a commonsense approach". Myles Cave-Browne-Cave (Dentons Hall) was praised for "excellent drafting skills" and for being a "tough negotiator". Dan Mace of Lovell White Durrant was "down to earth and approachable... very low key but tenacious and hard-working" and Barry O'Brien (Freshfields) was "an excellent lawyer in the corporate sector... able, commercial and forceful". One commentator described Michael Pescod (Slaughter and May) as a "class act", while another said he was "very professional, common sense and fun". Anthony Salz (Freshfields) was rated as a "good all-round commercial lawyer" and Mark Saunders (Nabarro Nathanson) as "providing first class advice... with a practical slant... highly recommended".

Another 17 lawyers are named



City stars (clockwise) Dan Mace, top left, Michael Pescod, Anthony Salz and Richard Bond

In the second category, the survey also produces a league table of the firms with the most lawyers nominated for their business skills. Unsurprisingly, the biggest firms—Linklaters, Herbert Smith, Cameron McKenna, Clifford Chance, Freshfields, Lovell White Durrant—top the list, although the guide notes that Herbert Smith "did extremely well coming second" and Cameron McKenna achieved "remarkable success" in its placing. Among national firms, Eversheds did well, with seven lawyers nominated. But of the 34 firms in the table, all but six are in London.

Some smaller firms also succeeded in entering the league table: Masons, Memery Crystal, Bristows Cooke & Carmichael,

Frere Cholmeley Bischoff, Osborne Clarke, Russells and Stephens Innocent.

A second survey—likely to be scored equally avidly—is on the top ten corporate finance lawyers, again based on the opinions of the "clients" of such lawyers, the in-house company legal departments and secretaries. Clifford Chance, Slaughter and Freshfields top the list, with Freshfields the firm whose individuals most regularly received high praise. Middle-sized firms such as Macfarlane, Travers Smith Braidwaite and Wilde Sapte were also considered first-class firms, able to hold their own.

The directory, the most exhaustive consumer guide to the most highly rated

lawyers throughout England and Wales, by both region and specialism, contains a wealth of other material, including a commentary on the top firms by region, and, in London, by size. Chambers, whose research is audited by the British Market Research Bureau, says inclusion in its guide is strictly on merit: firms and individuals cannot "buy" their way in. The specialist lists—60 areas, from church law and charities to sports and shipping—profile the leading lawyers in the field. There is also a large section on the Bar, by region and subject, and an A-Z directory of every set of chambers.

● A Guide to the Legal Profession 1997/98, Chambers & Partners Publishing (01403 710971), £40

David Salter comes to the defence of legal aid family law practices

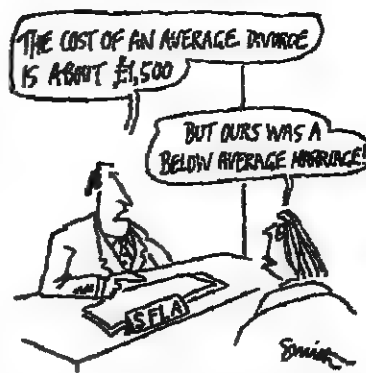
PATRICK STEVENS'S "Pity the legal aid lawyer" (Law, August 19) would seem an amusing parody of *la Maffia* where it is not that some of the general public might treat it seriously. Let me comment from the objective stance of a family lawyer who now does no legal aid work. My early professional career did involve an extensive legal aid family practice.

First, it must be acknowledged that, as with any system involving public funds, the legal aid system can be and is abused, but not in the habitually systematic fashion Mr Stevens suggests. That said, the reality is that there are thousands of dedicated, hard-working solicitors operating in inner cities, suburban high streets and local communities up and down the country. They are working long hours for low pay, to the extent that they simply do not have the time to indulge in the tactics Mr Stevens describes. Indeed, their dedication makes his comments repugnant.

Most solicitors who practise mainly in the field of family law belong to the Solicitors Family Law Association (SFLA), which now has 4,000 members nationwide. The association adopts a code of practice, endorsed by the courts, which promotes a conciliatory and constructive approach to family disputes. It is not insignificant that 86 per cent of financial disputes involving SFLA members are resolved without a contested court hearing.

Statistics from the Lord Chancellor's Department show that the

Divorced from reality



average cost of a legal-aid divorce is about £1,500, based on cases ranging from the simplest of the type mentioned by Mr Stevens to the more complex. Further, it should be borne in mind that where legal-aid costs exceed £1,000, they must be determined by the court through a process called taxation. District judges, who carry out this function, are alert to tactics of the type described by Mr Stevens and

will reduce the costs where appropriate.

Let me paint another sketch. A distraught wife comes to see an SFLA solicitor whose office is on the edge of the council estate where she lives. She brings her two young children along because there is nowhere she can leave them. The previous night her husband returned home drunk, punched her in the face, badly bruising her, and wrecked their home. The police were called but were reluctant to interfere, beyond calming the situation down. The husband said that he was leaving—for good.

IT WAS the culmination of an unhappy 12 months. She sits in the solicitor's office, pouring out her story. She needs—and receives—comfort and reassurance, as well as legal advice. The solicitor can advise under the legal aid "green form" scheme for up to three hours (or £130 worth of work). This includes an undefended divorce and preparing an application for legal aid, for a financial application and (if need be) a domestic violence injunction.

Because of the time spent on the initial interview, some of the solicitor's time will never be charged for. Extensions of the green form limit are difficult to obtain and cannot be retrospective.

So come on, Mr Stevens, get real. And just wait until Matthew Parris goes on holiday. You would make a brilliant deputy.

● The author is Chairman of the SFLA.

Ready for the next Barings

George Staple, QC, the former head of the Serious Fraud Office, is leading an anti-fraud unit set up by Clifford Chance. The unit aims to co-ordinate investigations for financial institutions and regulators, handling not only straightforward thefts, but also crimes such as those involving Barings and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

Mr Staple, a solicitor made silk *honoris causa* this year, says that what these crimes have in common is a "need for a body of fact to be established very quickly, and dealing with regulatory bodies cross-border. Every body needs the same information at once. We have offices in the main commercial centres around the world with people trained in commercial law and in countering commercial crime."

The one thing the team will not do is represent the alleged fraudsters. Mr Staple says: "I'm not a gamekeeper turned poacher." More to the point, he adds, the general experience of the big

Nick Gillies talks to George Staple, QC, about his new role as private fraudbuster

commercial law firms is in advising financial institutions that are the victims of fraud, rather than in criminal defence work.

He recognises that much of the immediate work that needs to be done when these crimes happen is the province of accountants or trained investigators, but says: "Some of the work is very law-intensive, and we have a large number of people experienced in commercial litigation. On the non-contentious side, we have people used to the regulators, here and internationally."

The nature of Clifford Chance's practice means that it knows the regulators in all the main centres in British jurisdictions, such as the

Cayman Islands. And it has acted for the US Department of Justice.

Though the electronic market means that a fraud can happen anywhere, the principal effects are likely to be felt in the three main financial markets of London, New York and Tokyo. Mr Staple makes the point that though Nick Leeson was working in the Singapore office of Barings, it was the London market that was most affected.

This might be an area in which a multidisciplinary partnership would be best, but these do not exist at the moment, he says. "The primary need is for a team of people who have pre-arranged systems and communications. 'When this happens,' he adds, 'people are stunned. It is at that moment that they need an experienced group to call on.'

There might be another Barings tomorrow, or none for ten years. Meanwhile, Clifford Chance is running training seminars for its international clients, to prepare against the day it happens.

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EDUCATION

Are you ready for student life?

Fred Redwood
says students often
leave home unable
to boil an egg or
operate a washing
machine

Although more young people than ever now gain admission to university, there is growing evidence that many of them are unprepared for life away from home. University counsellors report dealing with students wanting to give up their courses within the first few weeks of their arrival because of homesickness. Others have no idea of how to plan a work schedule and they fall behind almost immediately. Georgina Newson, who runs the student advice centre at the University of Reading, is amazed to find so many students lacking basic life skills.

"Because university is such a predictable rite of passage nowadays, students don't mentally prepare themselves for life away from home — they just assume everything will be arranged for them," she says. "I meet students who haven't the first idea about things like cooking or organising their own laundry."

"But it's the ones who can't adjust emotionally who have the worst problems. The first few weeks of term are hectic and provide lots of opportunities to make new friends. But some students simply can't cope with new social situations. They can't bring themselves to join a university society or simply make an appearance at the union bar."

For these less gregarious young people Ms Newson runs courses on assertiveness training. But she thinks the best way of pre-empting the problems of students who "can't cope" would be to set up advice sessions in the schools.

"Welfare officers and students themselves must go into the sixth forms and describe the difficulties which can arise when you leave home for the first time," she says. "If these young people were better prepared, I wouldn't have a queue of new students desperate for help after the first few weeks of term."

Lesley Parker, a counsellor at Cambridge University, is concerned that schoolteachers should take into account the unique nature



Finding suitable accommodation is just one of the "life skills" that students learn fairly quickly when they go to university

of the learning environment at Oxbridge colleges.

"It is unwise simply to advise a young person to apply to Oxbridge without considering whether that person will be able to adapt to the highly pressurised atmosphere here," she says. "I meet students who are bereft because a tutor has criticised an essay. They are all very talented and at school they may have never encountered any criticism. Here, of course, they have to compare themselves with others of equal ability — and that can hurt."

"Some expect so much of themselves that they are distraught when they suspect that they won't be getting a first. They quite simply perceive anything less than a first as an abject failure."

"Also, socially, Cambridge is very much a goldfish bowl existence. Living in hall is a communal experience, which suits more outgoing personalities. Generally, students from public schools find the transition easier. This isn't to say that students from the state system are unable to adapt to Cambridge but some — the shy and retiring types — can find living in hall difficult."

Ms Parker blames teachers for giving bad advice to sixthformers. They often simply match the best students to the most prestigious universities, without taking into account the unique demands of each institution. Also, many teachers don't appreciate that university life has changed since their days as

students — it is far more demanding. Teachers should give more thought to whether pupils will be able to cope emotionally in the universities they recommend.

A tough inner-city environment also poses problems, particularly for students who have been brought up in the countryside. Davina McManis, student counsellor at Glasgow University, finds a number of students who cannot get used to living in a city.

"Glasgow has a good academic reputation and sometimes students opt for courses without giving enough thought to whether they will be able to adapt to city life. To guard against this many of our courses now produce videos which give a balanced picture of what

students can expect to experience if they come here to study.

"Of course, with universities trying to maximise student numbers, other institutions won't be following our lead. Heavy marketing means, unfortunately, that students are going to be attracted to universities that are unsuitable."

"I think that the schools should accept more responsibility for advising sixthformers. They could make use of modern innovations such as personality indicator questionnaires so that the prospective students can make objective self-assessments of their own personalities. Then they should give very careful thought to whether they will be able to cope in the university towns and cities they choose."

Samuel Long on the US's failings

The American way of learning

DOUBTS about the standards of some British universities may trouble students still trying to find a degree course through clearing. But in my experience, they are as nothing compared with the shortcomings of the American system.

First, the teaching can be downright bad. In one incident, a professor sent his assistant to play tapes of his lecture to students, who responded by leaving their own tape recorders in the lecture hall while they went out for coffee.

Another professor suffered a stroke while giving his lecture, repeating meaningless phrases until the class ended. His students left him mumbling behind the podium, thinking he was being his usual self.

A student mistakenly submitted a paper with only a title page followed by thirty pages of blank sheets. She received a B+ with the comment: "Good work!"

One social science department where I taught asked students to call professors by their first names because it was supposed to raise students' evaluations of teaching quality.

Most professors pretend to teach, most students pretend to learn. Neither group spends too much time or effort playing this game. Students do not play a central role in most lecturers' lives. Professors rarely think about, or mention, students. When they do, they express contempt for their intellectual skill, their motivation, and their background.

Most academics teach the same courses, sometimes with different titles, over and over again, often using the notes they took in graduate school.

Most students attend class unprepared, not having both read and completed the reading assignment. Courses are "dumbed" down and grades inflated. A student's performance is often only evaluated with a poorly structured final examination.

Reading ability among university students is dismal. Textbooks written for the mid-high school level — aimed at 16-year-olds — are too difficult for many undergraduates to comprehend. College graduates read, on average, one book a year.

Undergraduates' writing skills are equally poor and are often at the level of primary schoolchildren. It is not uncommon to discover 20 per cent of words in a term paper misspelled. Grammar is virgin territory. Many students do not know what a sentence is and understanding of correct punctuation is comparable to comprehension of differential equations. Logical, well-developed arguments are a rarity. Clear thinking is disparaged and ignored.

Also discouraged is critical thought. Conformity to conventional thinking and lack of depth are the norm in university classrooms. Little spirit of intellectual enquiry is exhibited by students or the faculty. Very few academics publish books and articles, and few are engaged in research or supported by research grants. Innovation is discouraged. The "old way" is less disruptive, less threatening. Young academics quickly learn not to rock the boat. They attend committees, write reports, restructure their ineffective curriculums, don't ask embarrassing questions, or participate in controversial research.

Academics hang on to their jobs and get promoted by being congenial and keeping their noses clean. Being a good teacher does not count for much.

American universities think they educate students, build character, fortify "humanistic-democratic values" and enhance general knowledge. But only top-notch universities such as Yale, Harvard, the University of California at Berkeley, Michigan and Stanford pass the Dearing test. The remaining 90 per cent of students go to what can best be described as diploma mills.

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[illegible]

RACING: GODOLPHIN-OWNED ENTRY ON COURSE FOR AUSTRALIA

Classic Cliche set to head Melbourne Cup weights

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH-TRAINED entries dominate the weights for the Melbourne Cup, which were published yesterday — and three horses look set to make the round-the-world journey for Australia's most famous race.

Swain, who beat Pilsudski, Helios and Singipoli in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, is top weight with 63 kilos (9st 10lb) — the biggest burden given to a horse in the two-mile handicap since Galilee was allocated 64kg in 1968.

However, the Godolphin-trained five-year-old, who is due to run at Newbury on September 18 before going for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, is more likely to be aimed at the Japan Cup or Breeders'

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MISHRAAK
(3.00 Folkestone)
Next best: Jamaican Flight
(4.15 Pontefract)

Cup than Australia — which will leave another Godolphin entry to head the weights.

Classic Cliche is set to carry 60kg (9st 6lb) and if all goes well when he runs in the Irish St Leger on September 21, his five-year-old will take his chance, with Frankie Dettori set to ride. Shantou, third in the handicap with 59.5kg (9st 5lb), is unlikely to run.

A total of 19 horses from Britain and Ireland have been entered for the Aus\$2,235,000 (£1,000,000) Melbourne Cup, to be run at Flemington on November 4, but the most likely runners — in addition to Classic Cliche — are Clerkenwell, last year's Ebor winner who makes his seasonal reappearance at Salisbury on Thursday, the Lady Herriest-trained Harbour Dues — and possibly Double Eclipse.

Clerkenwell, a 50-1 shot with Mark Read All Sports, an Australian bookmaker based in Darwin, has been given



Classic Cliche is likely to carry top weight in the Melbourne Cup in November

52.5kg (8st 4lb) in a race where the weights do not rise. That would appear to give the Michael Stoute-trained colt a decent chance of emulating Vintage Crop, who became the first northern hemisphere horse to capture the Melbourne Cup in 1993.

Stoute has had this race in mind for the Sheikh Mohammed-owned four-year-old for at least nine months. The horse's recent homecoming has impressed gallop watchers and if his Salisbury reappearance goes well Clerkenwell would then take in a group race before heading for Melbourne. Significantly, Michael Kinnane, who rode Vintage Crop to victory, has been booked for Clerkenwell on Thursday.

Harbour Dues, who beat Clerkenwell by a neck in a Goodwood handicap last June before finishing fourth to the same horse on slightly worse terms in the Ebor, is a distinct possibility having shown his wellbeing in Copenhagen recently when beating Arabian Storm, The Slip Anchor colt, who is set to carry a 53.5kg (8st 6lb), would probably be ridden by Pat Eddery.

Double Trigger, the Goodwood Cup winner, has 59kg (9st 4lb) while his brother, Double Eclipse is on 57kg (8st 13lb). Ron Huggins, the owner of both the Mark Johnston-trained stayers, said Eclipse was the more likely of the two to run but his participation depends on securing a sponsorship deal for his horses.

Although the rewards on offer in the Cup are substantial — with a first prize of Aus\$1,450,000, it represents a high-risk venture. Huggins estimates it cost £50,000 to take Double Trigger in 1995. Simon Crisford, the Godolphin racing manager, believes Classic Cliche has a fair weight and, unlike last year, he has been campaigned with the Melbourne Cup in mind. "Last year the Melbourne Cup came as an afterthought after some gruelling races, notably in the King George. This year we have geared the whole campaign towards this race. Compared to 12 months ago he is doing very well and we are delighted with his progress."

Blank Saturday, page 52

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Going: good (good to soft in places)

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HOW TO PLAY

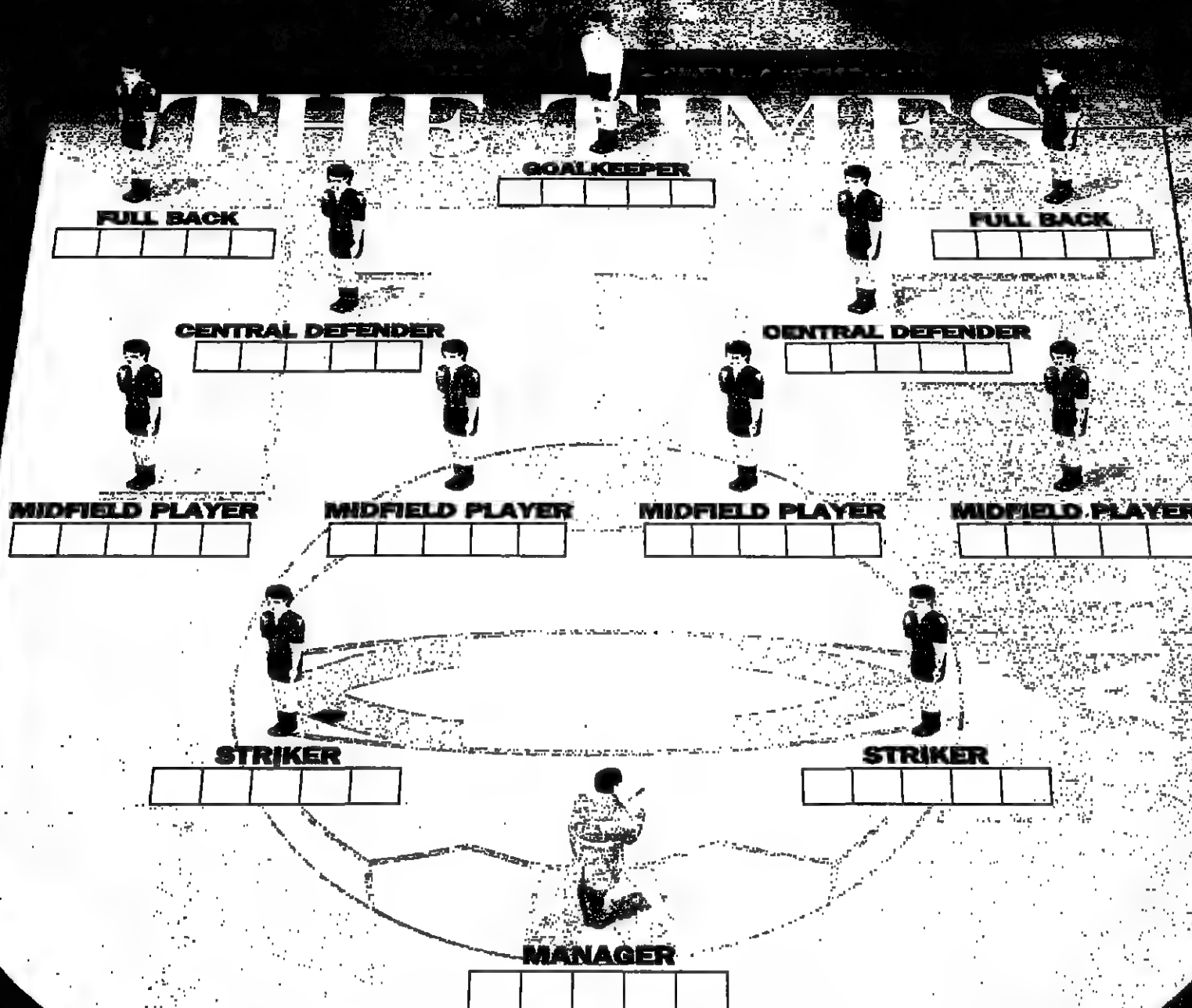
HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

POINTS DEDUCTED

TRANSFERS

WAYS OF ENTERING YOUR TEAM

£100,000 WORTH OF PRIZES TO BE WON



HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

● BY FAX

Complete the entry form and fax it to 0860 600 563 (calls cost 49p per minute) or outside UK +44 171 649 1726. Enter your credit card details on the fax section of the form. £2 will be debited from your account.

See panel above left for details of how the number of transfers decreases as the season progresses. All transfers will receive a letter of confirmation and information on their personal identification number (PIN) and learn, with complete terms and conditions.

TEAM NAME										
Goalkeeper					(Up to 16 characters)					
Full back										
Full back										
Central defender										
Central defender										
Midfielder										
Midfielder										
Midfielder										
Midfielder										
Striker										
Striker										
Manager										

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

First Name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Daytime Tel _____

Cheque / PO No. _____

This year ITF will incorporate separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.

☐ ITF League ☐ Women's League ☐ Student League ☐ Youth League (Under 18)

Entrants must be 18 or over to play in the ITF league, the Women's league and the Students' league. Entrants under 18 may enter the Youth league only and are not eligible for cash prizes.

Which age group are you? (TICK BOX)

1. 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/>	2. 25-34 <input type="checkbox"/>	3. 35-44 <input type="checkbox"/>
4. 45-54 <input type="checkbox"/>	5. 55-64 <input type="checkbox"/>	6. 65+ <input type="checkbox"/>

How often do you read The Times? Less than once a week 1-3 times a week 4-6 times a week

How often do you read The Sunday Times? Less than once a month 1-2 times a month 3-4 times a month

Do you have a PC at home? Yes No If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers, please tick box

Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

FOR FAX ENTRY, FILL IN CREDIT CARD DETAILS BELOW

Fax your entry to: **UK 0660 800 563**
Outside UK +44 171 649 1726

Credit Card Number Expiry date

Mastercard Visa Name on card
(Supply address of registered cardholder if different from above)

Signature Name

Address

Postcode Daytime Tel

QUERY NUMBER: 01582 702720

THIS IS NO FANTASY

- **FREE Entry to The Times Interactive Team Football 1997*:**
 - **One month's FREE membership of LineOne.**
- **10 hours FREE access to LineOne's minute-by-minute football news, and the Internet.**

When it comes to playing The Times Interactive Team Football you can see that LineOne puts you ahead of the game. Not only does it give you all the latest results and match reports from Sky, but also all the news, commentary and analysis from The Times, The Sunday Times and the Internet.

Through LineOne you can also chat to your competitors and seek the views of other football fans. You can even set up LineOne to bring you all the information about your own team as soon as it is available.

Who knows? With access to all this football information, winning the title might just become a reality.

Call for your FREE trial of LineOne and the

Internet now on **0800 111 210**

***One FREE on-line entry via LineOne including all transfers. This is worth £9.**

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and be £50,000 champions

It's not too late to join, is easy to play and will cost you very little to sign up.
But can you pick a team to win a monthly prize — or even the whole league?

Thousands of readers are joining Interactive Team Football (ITF) every week in the hope of winning the league outright, or to try for the generous monthly prizes. Points are accumulated every week, so it's best to sign up now.

The Times, in association with LineOne and Sky Sports Interactive, is challenging you to select a team from the best players in Britain — those in the FA Carling Premiership and the leading clubs in the Bell's Scottish League. Your expertise will be rewarded with a £50,000 prize for the winning team selector plus £10,000 for the second prize and £5,000 for the team coming third. Then a further £1,000 goes to the selector of the best team of the month (plus a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and Premiership tickets).

Then there is the new FA Cup prize. Every team entered

into the ITF league will automatically be entered into the FA Cup league. Points scored by your players in FA Cup matches will be entered both in the main ITF league and in the special FA Cup league. The winner of the FA Cup league will be awarded £10,000.

That is not all. New this year are three special mini-leagues running concurrently with the ITF league: a Women's League, the Mitre Students League and the Dairy Crest Youth League for under-18s. The winning team in each category will win a trip for two to the World Cup in France next year. Monthly prizes of Premiership tickets, Mitre footballs signed by Stuart Pearce and Mitre sports bags will also be awarded in each league for the manager of the month.

ITF CHECKLINE

You can check your position in ITF by calling 0891 884 628 (outside UK 44 990 200 532).

● ITF terms and conditions are available on request by calling the helpline number: 01582 702720.
● Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

Winners' details for the first monthly leagues will appear next Tuesday

SEVEN GOOD REASONS TO PLAY ITF

- More prize money — £100,000 worth of prizes to be won
- New FA Cup league with a prize fund of £10,000 for the winner, with automatic inclusion and no extra work or cost
- New mini-leagues for women, students and young entrants with separate monthly prizes and overall prizes of trips to the World Cup for each league winner
- 60 transfers with more flexibility for more control over your team
- Special hat-trick bonus introduced
- Revaluation of players: the value of players will go up and down through the season so, with careful selection, you can juggle your funds to buy more top names
- Easy to enter: six different ways of joining ITF (post, fax, telephone, Skytext, Internet and LineOne)

WHICH STRIKER IS BETTER VALUE?



Bergkamp: £7.5m, five goals



Sutton: £3m, six goals



Top points scorer: Schmeichel has yet to concede a goal

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

OUT			
32201	Mitchell Van Der Gaag	Motherwell	£1.5m
32703	Ulrich Van Gobbel	Southampton	£1m
40303	Andy Townsend	Aston Villa	£2m
40703	Peter Grant	Celtic	£1.5m

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

□ YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

□ EACH TEAM that was entered by August 9 was allocated 80 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date has its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. All teams registered before noon that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after noon on December 13 will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

□ THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-Tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with 3* and a hash key are Touch-Tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

□ YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

□ TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

□ YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

□ CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

GOALKEEPERS				
Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
10101	J. Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	2
10201	D. Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	5
10301	M. Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	3
10401	D. Watson	Barnsley	1.00	-1
10501	T. Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	4
10601	K. Brannagan	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-3
10701	S. Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0
10801	E. De Goey	Chelsea	3.00	6
10901	S. Ogilvie	Coventry City	1.50	-3
11001	C. Nash	Crystal Palace	1.00	0
11101	K. Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	2
11201	M. Poom	Derby County	1.50	8
11301	S. Dykstra	Dundee Utd	3.00	2
11401	N. Southall	Dunfermline	1.00	0
11501	G. Rouse	Everton	2.00	-3
11601	G. Rouse	Everton	1.50	8
11701	C. Reid	Hibernian	1.00	0
11801	D. Lakovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	-7
11901	N. Martin	Leeds Utd	3.50	-1
12001	K. Keller	Leicester City	2.00	-3
12101	D. James	Liverpool	3.50	8
12201	P. Schmeichel	Manchester Utd	5.00	18
12301	S. Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0
12401	S. Given	Newcastle Utd	4.00	0
12501	A. Goram	Rangers	5.00	0
12601	K. Pressman	Sheffield Weds	2.50	-5
12701	M. Taylor	Southampton	1.50	0
12801	A. Main	St Johnstone	0.50	-3
12901	L. Mikiel	Tottenham	3.00	5
13001	N. Sullivan	West Ham Utd	2.00	5
13101	N. Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	-2

CENTRAL DEFENDERS				
Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
30101	B. O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00	-1
30201	T. Adams	Arsenal	3.50	0
30301	M. Keown	Arsenal	3.50	0
30401	G. Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00	2
30501	G. Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	3
30601	U. Ehlgoe	Aston Villa	3.50	3
30701	A. De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	1
30801	A. Moses	Barnsley	0.50	1
30901	M. Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	0
31001	C. Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	1
31101	S. Henchoz	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	1
31201	G. Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-2
31301	G. Bergeson	Bolton Wanderers	1.00	-1
31401	C. Falculough	Bolton Wanderers	1.00	0
31501	E. Annoni	Celtic	3.00	0
31601	M. Mackay	Celtic	3.00	0
31701	A. Stubbs	Chelsea	3.00	4
31801	F. Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00	5
31901	M. Durrery	Chelsea	2.50	5
32001	S. Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0
32101	B. Lambourde	Chelsea	1.50	0
32201	L. Delah	Coventry City	1.50	-2
32301	R. Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-3
32401	P. Williams	Coventry City	1.50	-3
32501	A. Roberts	Crystal Palace	0.75	-1
32601	A. Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75	-2
32701	D. Tuttle	Crystal Palace	2.50	2
32801	I. Stille	Derby County	1.50	4
32901	J. Laursen	Derby County	1.50	4
33001	S. Pressley	Dundee Utd	3.00	0
33101	G. Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	-1
33201	S. Silic	Everton	3.00	-1
33301	D. Watson	Everton	2.00	-1
33401	D. Weir	Hibernian	1.50	0
33501	J. Hughes	Leeds Utd	2.00	0
33601	D. Wetherall	Leeds Utd	2.00	-1
33701	G. Halls	Leeds Utd	2.00	-1
33801	R. Molenaar	Leeds Utd	1.50	-1
33901	L. Radebe	Leeds Utd	3.00	0
34001	M. Elliott	Leeds Utd	3.00	0
34101	P. Karmark	Leeds Utd	1.50	1
34201	S. Walsh	Leeds Utd	3.00	5
34301	M. Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0
34401	D. Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	0
34501	B. Kramre	Liverpool	3.00	4
34601	H. Berg	Manchester Utd	3.00	10
34701	D. May	Manchester Utd	3.50	10
34801	G. Pallister	Manchester Utd	3.00	0
34901	P. Albert	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0
35001	D. Peacock	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0
35101	S. Howey	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0
35201	A. Pistone	Rangers	3.50	0
35301	S. Porini	Rangers	3.50	0
35401	J. Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0
35501	L. Amoroso	Sheffield Weds	2.50	1
35601	D. Walker	Sheffield Weds	2.50	-1
35701	J. Newsome	Sheffield Weds	2.50	-1
35801	P. Atherton	Southampton	1.00	0
35901	R. Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0
36001	C. Lundekvam	St Johnstone	0.50	-1
36101	S. McCluskey	Tottenham	3.00	3
36201	S. Campbell	Tottenham	2.50	4
36301	J. Scales	Tottenham	2.00	0
36401	R. Vega	Tottenham	2.00	0
36501	C. Calderwood	Tottenham	2.50	1
36601	R. Ferdinand	West Ham Utd	2.00	0
36701	R. Hall	West Ham Utd	2.00	1
36801	D. Unsworth	West Ham Utd	1.50	0
36901	S. Potts	West Ham Utd	2.50	-3
37001	C. Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	-3
37101	D. Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	-3

MIDFIELD PLAYERS				
Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
40101	E. Jasi	Aberdeen	3.00	1
40201	P. Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00	0
40301	M. Overmars	Arsenal	5.50	4
40401	P. Vieira	Arsenal	3.50	3
40501	S. Hughes	Arsenal	2.50	2
40601	R. Parfou	Arsenal	1.50	0
40701	D. Platt	Aston Villa	4.00	4
40801	M. Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	4
40901	I. Taylor	Barnsley	3.00	3
41001	N. Redfern	Barnsley	2.00	6
41101	E. Tinker	Barnsley	1.00	0
41201	D. Sheridan	Barnsley	0.50	1
41301	M. Bullock	Barnsley	2.50	5
41401	J. Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	1
41501	B. McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0
41601	T. Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	3
41701	G. Fittcroft	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	1
41801	A. Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0
41901	S. Sellers	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	1
42001	P. Frandsen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0
42101	M. Johansen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0

MIDFIELD PLAYERS				
Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
40201	J. Pollock	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	1
40301	A. Thom	Celtic	4.50	0
40401	P. O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	0
40501	R. Binkley	Celtic	1.50	0
40601	C. Burley	Celtic	3.00	0
40701	D. Wiese	Chelsea	4.00	8
40801	R. Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	8
40901	E. Newton	Chelsea	2.50	0
41001	G. Poyet	Chelsea	2.00	5
41101	G. McAllister	Coventry City	2.50	0
41201	T. Solvestad	Coventry City	1.50	1
41301	J. Salako	Coventry City	1.50	2
41401	S. Rodgers	Crystal Palace	1.00	2
41501	D. Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25	0
41601	P. Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50	1
41701	A. Lombardo	Crystal Palace	2.50	2
41801	A. Asanovic	Derby County	2.50	0
41901	S. Eranio	Derby County	1.50	0
42001	D. Powell	Derby County	1.50	2
42101	C. Dailly	Derby County	1.00	3
42201	R. Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00	3
42301	J. Hunt	Dundee Utd	3.50	4
42401	R. Winters	Dunfermline	2.00	1
42501	A. Smith	Dunfermline	1.50	0
42601	D. Fleming	Everton	3.50	1
42701	G. Speed	Everton	1.50	0
42801	J. Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0
42901	G. Farrelly	Everton	2.00	1
43001	D. Williamson	Everton	2.50	6
43101	N. McCann	Hibernian	2.00	0
43201	C. Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	1
43301	B. Lavety	Hibernian	2.00	0
43401	J. McIntyre	Kilmarnock	3.50	2
43501	D. Hopkin	Leeds Utd	3.00	0
43601	L. Bowyer	Leeds Utd	2.50	2
43701	A. Haslam	Leeds Utd	2.50	0
43801	L. Sharpe	Leeds Utd	2.00	0
43901	G. Parker	Leeds Utd	2.00	1
44001	N. Lennon	Leeds Utd	2.00	2
44101	M. Izatt	Leeds Utd	1.50	0
44201	S. Taylor	Liverpool	7.00	6
44301	S. McManaman	Liverpool	4.00	0
44401	O. Leanderson	Liverpool	3.00	2
44501	M. Thomas	Liverpool	3.00	0
44601	J. Redknapp	Liverpool	5.00	2
44701	P. Ince	Liverpool	8.00	9
44801	D. Beckham	Manchester Utd	7.00	14
44901	R. Giggs	Manchester Utd	5.00	9
45001	R. Keane	Manchester Utd	4.00	6
45101	N. Butt	Manchester Utd	5.00	6
45201	A. Cole	Manchester Utd	2.00	0
45301	B. Davies	Motherwell	5.00	0
45401	R. Lee	Newcastle Utd	3.50	0
45501	K. Gillespie	Newcastle Utd	2.50	0
45601	D. Batty	Newcastle Utd	2.50	0
45701	J. Barnes	Newcastle Utd	8.00	0
45801	B. Laudrup	Rangers	6.00	0
45901	P. Gascoigne	Rangers	4.00	0
46001	J. Thern	Rangers	4.00	0
46101	J. Albert	Sheffield Weds	3.00	10
46201	B. Carbone	Sheffield Weds	2.50	0
46301	M. Pemberton	Sheffield Weds	1.00	0
46401	G. Hyde	Sheffield Weds	1.50	3
46501	J. Magilton	Southampton	0.75	0
46601	R. Slater	Southampton	0.75	4
46701	N. Maddison	St Johnstone	0.75	1
46801	A. Sekerlioglu	Tottenham	3.00	2
46901	A. Sinton	Tottenham	3.00	0
47001	D. Anderson	Tottenham	2.00	6
47101	R. Fox	Tottenham	2.00	4
47201	D. Howells	Tottenham	2.50	0
47301	D. Ginola	West Ham Utd	2.50	5
47401	E. Berkovic	West Ham Utd	2.50	3
47501	S. Lomas	West Ham Utd	2.00	2
47601	J. Moncur	West Ham Utd	1.50	0
47701	M. Hughes	West Ham Utd	4.50	2
47801	R. Earle	Wimbledon	2.00	1
47901	N. Ardley	Wimbledon	2.00	0
48001	V. Jones	Wimbledon	1.50	0
48101	C. Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50	3

RUGBY LEAGUE: AUSTRALIAN APPOINTED AS GOODWAY'S DEPUTY IN NEW COACHING SET-UP

Britain broadens horizons with McRae

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

UNTIL now, the idea of an overseas influence in the Great Britain set-up has been frowned upon, yet the appointment yesterday of Shaun McRae, the Australian coach of St Helens, as No 2 to Andy Goodway for the three matches against Australia in November and the 1998 World Cup is a logical progression.

Australian and New Zealand players and coaches have offered valuable insights and expertise as part of the club scene for many years. More important than McRae's record with St Helens in claiming the Super League title last year and successive Challenge Cup triumphs is his experience with Australia on two winning tours of Britain, the 1992 World Cup victory and, with New Zealand, in the 1995 World Cup.

Goodway, as expected, has been given the lead role in the so-called "coaching partnership" for his work with Oldham and, lately, in keeping Paris Saint-Germain afloat in the Super League, as a champion of lost causes. Goodway, 36, is an appropriate choice, but if Britain are to defy overwhelming odds and 27 years of frustration by beating Australia in a series, McRae's assistance in a technical role will be vital. There will be additional input from a skills and conditioning coach.

The Goodway-McRae tickle was a technical director.

"I'm patriotic and nationalistic, but the goal is to win against Australia and if that means bringing the right people together to do that, then it doesn't matter where they come from," he said.



Goodway, a champion of lost causes, flies the flag after the announcement of his role with Great Britain. Photograph: Steve Forrest

Goodway's appointment follows a remarkable five months in which he was dismissed by Oldham and helped Paris to relegate his former employers. Although he has achieved little at club level, he is left to have the right, analytical approach.

As he prepares to become involved with a third national team, McRae, 37, is mindful of Australia's vast playing resources but feels that, fully fit, Britain have the players to be more than competitive. It is a view endorsed by Goodway,

whose 23 international appearances came when playing riches were less scarce. "There are enough quality players. It's just making the right selections," he said.

In another innovation, the selection process will follow the Australian model of a "train-on" squad, which will be added to as players' club commitments end in the Premiership and world club championship. This will be pared to a final squad 12 days before the first international, at Wembley on November 1.

The captaincy is an unresolved issue, although it would be a surprise were it to be removed from Andy Farrell, who performed well in trying circumstances in New Zealand last year. The Wigan forward was described by Goodway as the "No 1 player in Britain", but it is the availability of his Wigan colleagues, Gary Connolly and Jason Robinson, that is the most pressing concern.

They have not represented Britain for more than a year because of their Australian

Rugby League (ARL) contracts. Unless the ARL relents, or a united competition is hurriedly agreed between the ARL and the Australian Super League, an already threadbare Britain side might have to do without two of their best players.

There is a problem, too, of a lack of sponsorship for a series that represents the pinnacle of the game. Two months is little enough time for Goodway and McRae to get their preparations right, let alone for a backer to emerge.



McRae: expertise

RUGBY UNION: CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO PREVENT REDUCTION OF CLUBS PROMOTED FROM SECOND DIVISION

Coventry seeking support against proposed elite system

By MARK SOUSTER

COVENTRY are to seek an emergency meeting of all second-division clubs to oppose proposals to halve the number of promotion places to the first division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. They feel the plan — being suggested by Saracens — would disenfranchise smaller clubs and effectively create a closed shop of the wealthy elite.

Mike Smith, the chief executive of Saracens, believes only one club should automatically be promoted — with one play-off place and only then if they meet strict new criteria regarding their stadium facilities and financial affairs. In a letter to

directors of English First Division Rugby, English Rugby Partnership and seven of the leading owners, including Sir John Hall, Smith said the present system, which means up to four sides — a third of the league — can be relegated from the Premiership first division, adds a substantial risk to long-term investors.

"Many other sports have a regulation stating clubs must fit a certain criteria, even if they win the league, to gain promotion. Why are we different?" Smith, who is seeking the backing of senior clubs, said.

He said: "At a time of the greatest long-term investment by owners into rugby ever seen it can make no sense to add a further substantial risk that

could fall in the middle of the investment programme."

Steve Ginn, the general manager of Coventry, is among those who question the motive behind the proposals which could not come into force before the 1998-99 season and which would have to be agreed by all 24 Premiership clubs and the Rugby Football Union (RFU).

"There is nothing wrong in high standards but there is no quick fix in professional rugby. We have a three- or four-year development programme here and we would be unhappy if the first division kept us out just because we did not fit into their time scale. We and a lot of other strong, popular second-division

clubs would be disenfranchised. We are recommending English Second Division Rugby (ESDR) convenes as soon as possible. This subject warrants a single session with one item on the agenda. There is not a day to be lost," he said.

Robin Foster, the chairman of ESDR, agreed the plan could be interpreted as a "carve-out". "That is the last thing we want. If it were put in place it would make the rich richer. It may sound like a stab in the back but it is a long way to go to get it accepted," he said.

While there is merit in ensuring standards are raised to attract more spectators — football crowds for instance have risen by more than a

third after the Taylor Report — there is little doubt that the first-division clubs are motivated purely by self-interest. Only last season they agreed to the present system of two up, two down, with two play-off places, to ensure that the second-division clubs sided with them in their dispute with the RFU.

□ Meanwhile Smith said the top clubs would not take part in the new knock out cup which is to be sponsored by Carlsberg-Tetley in a three-year contract worth £5.2 million. Smith said the clubs were unhappy that the RFU did not consult them about the sponsorship and wanted clarification over the terms before agreeing to participate.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Not out 7:30 unless stated

Games at 12:45

National League

First division

Crowe v Bury (7.45)

Huddersfield v Bradford (7.45)

Leeds v Swindon (7.45)

Preston v Northampton (7.45)

Reading v QPR (7.45)

Sheff Wed v Millwall (7.45)

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL

National League (NFL) Indianapolis 34

Buffalo 13, Cincinnati 10, Cleveland 20

Denver 17, Miami 18, Minnesota 24

New England 11, San Diego 7, New York

Giants 31, Philadelphia 17, Pittsburgh 7

St Louis 38, New Orleans 24, Tampa Bay

26, Washington 27, Denver 19, Kansas City

31, San Francisco 6, Washington 24

Carolina 10

INTER-LEAGUE GAMES: Cleveland 9

Chicago Cubs 5, Detroit 2, Philadelphia 4

Florida 4, Toronto 3, New York Mets 4

St Louis 4, Montreal 1, Miami 4

Chicago White Sox 3, Houston 1, St Louis

3, Kansas City 4, Milwaukee 3, Pittsburgh 2

Minnesota 3, Cincinnati 8, Colorado 10

Oakland 4, Seattle 3, Los Angeles 1 (10:00)

San Diego 5, Texas 3, Anaheim 7, San

Francisco 4, Atlanta 7, Boston 3

BASEBALL

INTER-LEAGUE GAMES: Cleveland 9

Chicago Cubs 5, Detroit 2, Philadelphia 4

Florida 4, Toronto 3, New York Mets 4

St Louis 4, Montreal 1, Miami 4

Chicago White Sox 3, Houston 1, St Louis

3, Kansas City 4, Milwaukee 3, Pittsburgh 2

Minnesota 3, Cincinnati 8, Colorado 10

Oakland 4, Seattle 3, Los Angeles 1 (10:00)

San Diego 5, Texas 3, Anaheim 7, San

Francisco 4, Atlanta 7, Boston 3

BASKETBALL

WOMEN'S NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

(WNBA) Houston Comets 65, New York

Liberty 61

BOWLS

LLANDRINDOD WELLS: Atlantic Rim

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FOR THE RECORD

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ROWING: NEW GENERATION INSPIRED BY TRAINING WITH THE TRIED AND TRUSTED

Britain's youth growing in stature

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL
IN AIGUEBELETTE, FRANCE

"WE have fewer big guns firing today," David Tanner, the Great Britain team manager, said before the second day of the world championships here yesterday.

The most experienced team boats had been in action on Sunday and had done as much, if not more, than expected. Four first places and direct progress to semi-finals for the coxless four, the women's double and pair and Greg Searle, in a scull, had been supported by three second places and one third.

Many of the eight crews in action yesterday were young, development units and training with former medal-win-

ners such as Steve Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent, Miriam Batten and Greg Searle had clearly worked.

The men's and women's eights performed impressively. The men, an Olympic development crew with an average age of 22, showed a maturity beyond their years. After an upsetting false start, Great Britain stayed in close contact behind the United States and Romania to 1,500 metres. Romania then pushed, but Britain went with them. They overtook the United States and were just one third of a length behind Romania at the line in the fastest heat.

The British crew, which produced the fastest last 500 metres of any of the crews, still faces a repechage tomorrow.

It will not be easy, but confidence has increased. A British heavyweight eight has not won a world medal since 1991.

Martin McElroy, 33, the crew's Irish coach, is a double graduate in engineering and business. He noted the improvement since the crew trained with Redgrave and

Results

..... 48

company. "You can learn a lot from those guys," he said.

The Britain women's eight, a last-minute selection including the coxless four that won gold in Lucerne and had already reached the final here on Saturday, were in unknown waters yesterday. With

no racing experience behind them, the British "big boat" lined up against Romania, the favourites for the gold medal, Canada and the experienced Dutch. Romania duly won and progressed to the final but Britain, with Lisa Eyre at stroke, finished a close third behind Canada in the fastest heat. Eyre said: "We had a good start, a good base rhythm and a good push at halfway. We have more to come in the last 500."

The usually cautious Mike Spracklen, who returned from the United States to coach the Britain women, said: "In January, I would have been happy with one boat in a final. Now it is all about winning."

With Sarah Birch and Tracy Langlands qualifying for the

lightweight women's doubles semi-final yesterday, British women have two crews in finals, three in semi-finals and the prospect of more to come, not least the lightweight quad of Nicola Dale, Jo Nitsch, Robyn Morris and Sarah Watts, bronze medal-winners in Lucerne, who were edged into a repechage in the fastest heat yesterday.

The two women scullers, the heavyweight, Guin Batten, and the lightweight, Jane Hall, face repechages today after finishing third and second in their heats on Sunday.

Maurice Hayes, the London University coach, was yesterday appointed lightweight men's coach to the Great Britain squad from the autumn.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: O'DONNELL MAKES FIVE TOUCHDOWN PASSES TO GIVE PARCELLS WINNING START

Jets shake off sleepiness in Seattle

By OLIVER HOIT

DALLAS Cowboys, New England Patriots and Denver Broncos all made their Super Bowl statements of intent on the opening day of the National Football League (NFL) season on Sunday but it was New York Jets, the team that has become famous for being so bad, that stole all the glory and left mouths agape.

In one wonderful afternoon at the Kingdome, the home of Seattle Seahawks, the Jets equalled their solitary win of last season at the first attempt, humbling a Seahawks team that had been tipped as one of the dark horses for the season ahead. It was no hair-breadth victory, either. The Jets won 41-3.

In a turnaround of bewildering proportions, their quarterback, the much-maligned Neil O'Donnell, a man who stuttered through last season, tottering from a dislocated shoulder to mistake after mistake, interception after interception, produced the best performance of his career. He threw five touchdown passes for a total of 270 yards.

Much of the credit, of course, was passed immediately to the Jets' new coach, Bill Parcells, the man who led New England Patriots to the Super Bowl last season, then left in acrimonious circumstances to go back to the city and the stadium where he enjoyed so much success as coach of New York Giants.

The man they call the Big Tuna has made sweeping changes since his arrival and is already working his magic. For the first time in more than a decade, it seems that the Jets have a real chance of winning more than half of their 16 regular season games.

The Patriots, the team Parcells left behind, showed no signs of losing the momentum that they built up last year on their way to their Super Bowl defeat against Green Bay Packers last January.

Their victory over San Diego Chargers was second in its decisiveness only to the Jets'.

Drew Bledsoe, their quarterback, who was thought to



Parcells, the New York Jets coach, celebrates a surprise victory in Seattle with Adrian Murrell, the running back

have had a difficult and frosty relationship with Parcells, threw for four touchdowns and 340 yards in the 41-7 rout before allowing himself a snipe at his former coach. "We know we have something to show, that we can play without him," Bledsoe said. "The players won last year and today shows we can win again this year."

The Cowboys, with their quarterback, Troy Aikman, also throwing four touch-

downs, have approached the new season with a new attitude, determined to try to put the scandals that have rocked them for the past two seasons into the background, and their 37-7 win over the listless Pittsburgh Steelers bodes well for the team America loves to hate.

The Broncos, the team that looked destined to win the Super Bowl last season until they were upset by the upstart Jacksonville Jaguars in the

play-offs, began quietly and efficiently with a 19-3 victory over Kansas City Chiefs in Mile High Stadium.

With the Packers due to start their campaign against Chicago Bears in Green Bay last night, a game that is about as close to a derby as it gets in the NFL, the only one of the fancied teams not to get off to a positive start were San Francisco 49ers, who spoiled the debut of their new coach, Steve Mariucci, by losing to Tampa

Bay Buccaneers for the first time in 17 years.

If the Jets began the season by reversing a bad trend, though, Carolina Panthers reversed a good one, losing for the first time in the short history of their Ericsson Stadium after an unbeaten 1996. Tennessee Oilers had no need to worry about and duty beat Oakland Raiders 24-21 in their debut game in the NFL and the first to be played in Tennessee.

BOWLS

Johnston and Price in spotlight

MARGARET JOHNSTON and Mary Price, who battled it out for the pairs title at the Atlantic Rim Games in Llandrindod Wells last week, hold centre stage this morning as the singles championship moves into its final round of matches (Gordon Dunwoodie writes).

Both have won 11 of their 12 matches. Johnston's only slip-up coming against Price, with the English champion suffering her only defeat at the hands of Betty Morgan, of Wales.

Although they are locked together on the same points, Johnston, the former world

champion who had to settle for the silver medal behind Price in the pairs, has the better shots difference: +102 against +91 for Price.

Johnston appears to have the harder task this morning, taking on the defending champion, Jo Peacock, from South Africa, while Price lines up against the unpredictable Mary De Lisle, from the United States.

Johnston's wins yesterday came against De Lisle and Crystal Toledano, of Spain, but the American caused the Ballymore player some anxious moments before finally surrendering 25-20.

De Lisle led 11-6 after 12 ends but then managed just two more counts, a single and a double, over the next ten ends as Johnston moved into a 21-14 lead before completing her win with a single in the 28th end.

Toledano offered some early resistance until, at 7-7 after 12 ends, she dropped a maximum four on the way to a 25-13 victory.

Price was successful in recovering from a deficit of 14-6 to beat On-Kow Au, of Canada, and then went on to defeat Maria Cabrelia, of Argentina, by the same score, 25-19.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Flattering, not fattening

Looking Good
BBC2, 8.30pm

"There are," says the presenter Lowri Turner, "only three questions women want to ask about clothes: Does it make me look fat? Do you have it in size 14? Can I put it in the washing machine?" So saying, she embarks on a whirlwind of trying on — but nearly always with the emphasis on "Does it make me look fat?" (whatever happened to price tags?) Its stylish stuff though — a recent survey quotes "95 per cent of employers are making 'presentation' a top priority" and Turner, with other experts, helps a young solicitor to "throw out those floral prints and too short minis... anything above mid-thigh means you make the tea". There's a rundown on cosmetics (a cleansing cream costing £35?), and yes, the men get a look in — but in their role as "partners". Don't ask.

Paul Merton in Galton & Simpson's...

ITV, 8.30pm

The trouble with this returning series is that the scripts are too good. Ray Galton and Alan Simpson don't half show up today's so-called sitcoms. Strange then that through their prolific output (Simpson and Son, *Half Hour*) some scripts were either lost or never broadcast. Tonight's first of seven, *Clerical Error*, is just such a jewel and the lugubrious Merton makes the most of it as an unlikely baby-sitter. He is answering a call from the Rent-A-Blonde Escort Agency on behalf of a clergyman and his wife. Perhaps it is no wonder that the parishioners are determined to get their new vicar defrocked. The script has been updated with topical references, though it would probably have stood up very well without them. Geoffrey Whitehead and Sally Giles play the clerical couple.

Plane Crazy
Channel 4, 10.00pm

Hope you haven't given up on the mild-mannered Clark Kent, the egotistical, mild-mannered Bob Cringely who thinks he can fly like Superman — because, wearily as the first two programmes were (Cringely struggling and failing miserably to finish building his light aircraft in the required 30 days) — this last, *On a Wing and a*



Galton, Merton, Simpson (ITV, 8.30pm)

Prayer, packs a punch. Suffice to say our hero has scrapped all his previous work and started again with a fresh team of experts — the Bible-bumping, plane-mad Fisher family from Ohio and a new model: a small German stunt plane which brought aerobics to Hitler's 1936 Olympics. As day 30 approaches (again), girlfriend Katie arrives to cheer Bob on the engine is fitted (why don't we ever see the dashboard?) and it's up and away... except it isn't. Stay tuned.

In Quest
Channel 4, 12.10am

Dariusz Howe is a rather stern, frightening man, so little asides ("You've got a nice line in words", he tells the *Chief Inspector of Thames Valley*) don't sit comfortably on him. But he has undeniable presence and his four midnight forays into the state of multicultural Britain look promising. With a jury of racially mixed young people and experts taking the stand, as in a courtroom, he plans to tackle the consequences of mixed marriage, affirmative action, whether blacks and Asians have changed anything in government and, tonight, who can police in ethnic minority communities. Citing the Notting Hill riots of 1970, the murder of PC Blacklock and examples of apparent police injustice, he produces a fairly damning indictment which is taken in good heart. It would seem, by the police (black and white) in his line of fire. Elizabeth Cowley

RADIO CHOICE

Lawrence and Liniment
Radio 4, 8.30pm

In a country that is swarming with lawyers and obsessed with the state of the National Health Service, a series about medical litigation would seem to be a sure-fire success. This one, a three-parter presented by Jenny Cuffie, examines the huge increase in such litigation, which has doubled over the past five years; the estimate for damages paid out by the NHS in this financial year is £225 million. The first programme basically picks up the blame culture which is evident in most walks of life: people have such high expectations of medical science that when something goes wrong they assume someone must be at fault. The danger, if this litigiousness gets out of hand, is that doctors will become more cautious in their treatments.

RADIO 1

7.00am Kevin Greening 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 8.30 Digital Update 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Cive Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up To Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 12.00 Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Carl Davis Classics 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 Legends of Light Music 9.30 Busby Line. Bernard Cribbins presents the history of the telephone 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Adrian Frighan. Includes at 8.30am Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with the 2.00 Race on Five 4.00 Julian Worricker Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 The Tuesday Match. Includes coverage from Edgeley Park, of the Division one clash featuring Stockport v Middlesbrough 10.00 News Talk 11.00 News Extra with Annie Webster 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Road Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Watt 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00am Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinklage 6.00 Anna Rieburn 10.00 James White 1.00am Mike Dixon

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Introduced by Penny Gore. Includes Vaughan Williams (Suite: The Wasps); Grieg (Wedding Day at Troldhaugen, Lyric Pieces); Schubert (In Paradisum); Weber, arr. Barlow (Invitation to the Dance); Geminiani, after Corelli (Concerto Grosso No. 12 in D minor, La Folia); Handel (Solenne Solenne de Nazareth); 9.00 Morning Collection, with Catriona Young. Includes Rameau (Overture, Le Temple de la Gloire); Mozart (Piano Quartet in D, K285); Poulenc (Suite des Solennes de Nazareth); 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris Wiles. Includes Schumann (Drei Stucklein, Bunte Blatter); Bach (Orchestral Suite No. 1 in C, BWV1068); Stravinsky (Jockey); Schumann (Albumblätter, Bunte Blatter); Foss (Concerto in G minor, op. 18 No. 2); Schumann (Novellente; Præstidium; Marsch, Bunte Blatter); Bainbridge (My Eyes in Love with All Beautiful Things); Stravinsky (Concerto in E flat, Lullaby); Schumann (Albumblätter, Bunte Blatter); Scherzo; Geschwindmarsch, Bunte Blatter); 12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Schubert 1.00pm News; Summer Ensemble. Krzysztof Szpilman, violin; John Blakey, piano. Poulenc (Violin Sonata in A) (7); 2.00 BBC Proms 97. Another chance to hear test BBC and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Tadaaki Otaka. Dvořák (Carnival Overture); Lutosławski (Cello Concerto); Brahms (Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Suite 1); 3.40 Schubert Song Cycles. The first of three concert performances at London's Wigmore Hall featuring Schubert's three great song cycles. A concert given in March by Ian Bostridge, tenor, Julius

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.30 Prayer for the Day 6.30 News 6.45 Personal History, by Katharine Graham. Abridged by Chris Wallis (21/10) 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Call Diane Madill. Telephone 0171-580-4444 for your questions for Diane Madill and the guest of the day 10.00 News: Tales From the Back of Beyond (FM). Dr Jean Brown documents the lives of the nomadic Pokot tribe of Northern Kenya, a way of life which is about to die out 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Women's Hour, with Jenni Murray 11.30 Medicine Now, with Geoff Watts. Includes an interview with a young artist who has fought off lymphatic cancer twice 12.00 News: You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Lesley Riddoch 12.25pm Cross Questioned. The late Vincent Hanna gives the clues to Jane Bussman, David Quantick, Francis Whelan and Nick Tupp in the radio crossword puzzle 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (7) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Sci-Fi — Fiction Science not Science Fiction. The geneticist Steve Jones discusses Aldous Huxley's first American novel, *After Many a Summer*, and ponders whether mortality will ever be overcome 2.30 Inventing Elgar. In the second of four programmes, the pianist David Owen-Norris tells to Jeremy Northrop Moore and Robert Walker about changing interpretations of Elgar and his work

3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Debra Brehan 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan reads the new Saul Bellow novel, *The Act*, and talks to Claire Tomalin about an exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley at the Wordsworth Museum in Grasmere 4.45 Short Story: Ways, by Edna O'Brien 5.00 PM, with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 News, with Lucy Flannery, with Barbara Flynn, Patrick Barrow and Linda Polan (3/6) (7) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Relative Values. As her husband was praying at her bedside, a woman who had been in a deep coma for three years started to join in (2/4) 8.00 Science Now. A look at the latest scientific discoveries and developments with Roger Highfield (7) 8.30 Lawless and Liniment. See Choice 9.00 In Touch. Peter White with news, views and information for visually impaired people 9.30 Kaleidoscope (7) 9.50 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton 10.45 Book at Bedtime: To the Lighthouse, by Virginia Woolf, read by Eileen Aldrich (21/10) (7) 11.00 Madlurave. The week's media events (7) 11.30 The New Europeans. David Neil Lodge talks to Pia Regan, who teaches American-style management skills in Ghana (7) 12.00 News and 12.27am sports Weather 12.30 The Late Book: The Women and the Age, by Peter Hoeg. Read by Helen Schlesinger (7/10) 12.48 Shipping Forecast (LW) 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.9-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 923, 908. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648. LW 195 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1053. (1053-1089). Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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